

THE AACC/NETWORK NATIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DATABASE

The AACC/NETWORK National Community College Workforce Development Database portion of AACC's Workforce Development Project contract with the U.S. Department of Labor continues to grow by leaps and bounds. As of January 15th, more than 440 colleges had provided general college information. These institutions have also provided information on more than 2,750 individual public and/or private sector workforce development programs.

The community college workforce development database is one of several databases available to community college and workforce development professionals globally through the Department of Labor's Training Technology Resource Center. In addition to the AACC/ NETWORK information, users can gain free access to databases on specific topics such as One-Stop Career Centers, National Labor Market Information, School-to-Work, Employment and Training Administration Directives, JTPA Information, and Skill Standards. Individuals can access these databases via modem by dialing 1-800-767-0806 or Telnet to ttrc.doleta.gov.

A MULTI-PURPOSE TOOL

The National Community College Workforce Development Database is a multi-purpose tool designed to assist in the creation of workforce development programs, address economic development needs and aid in successful resource development efforts. The database can aid in developing new programs for employers, responding to economic development needs of businesses re-locating into a community college service area and in responding to agency requests for proposals.

A likely scenario for using the database to meet an employer's workforce development needs would occur after a community college's business/industry representative had visited an employer and identified their specific training needs. If the need can not be addressed using an existing program offered by the college, the tool of choice to create the new curriculum would be the database. By dialing into the database, the community college staff member can conduct an on-line search of public and private sector programs offered by two-year colleges throughout the country. The search can be conducted using either a key word or free text search methodology. Once similar programs are identified, the staff member can review curriculum outlines, program outcomes, program length, and costs to find a match to the employer's need. Having identified matching programs, the staff member can call a key contact person at the institution to gather information on specific aspects of the program and to borrow (or possibly buy) the curriculum.

As an economic development tool, the database can be used to respond to the short-term and long-range training needs of a new employer moving into the college's service delivery area. Once the company's short and long-term training needs are identified, community college staff can search the database for a multitude of programs to meet the employer's overall workforce development needs. In essence, the college's staff can offer the database as a menu of available training programs that can be acquired from any participating college on the employer's behalf.

Finally, as a resource development tool, the database can help identify programs and services offered to public sector sponsoring agencies, such as the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) or the Tech-Prep Programs. Once an institution receives a copy of an agency's request for proposal, the database can be searched and a key contact identified at each institution that offers a similar program. The database will also become a key component in the college's One-Stop Career Center service delivery strategy.

THE SECOND YEAR

The database project has been awarded second year funding from the U.S. Department of Labor as part of the AACC Workforce Development contract. Other major components of that effort include the continuation of the AACC State Workforce Development Liaison initiative and the delivery of AACC's third Workforce Development Institute held in San Diego, California from January 10-13, 1996.

In early November a revised data collection instrument was mailed to community college presidents and business liaisons throughout the U.S. The survey will collect information on new programs that were operated in 1994-95, and will also be used as a tool to update existing database information. The goal of the data collection process is to add 260 new colleges and 4,200 new programs to the listings that already exist in the database. The new survey will also gather information on each colleges participation in One-Stop Career Center planning and implementation. Similarly, data will be gathered on each institutions' involvement in preparing for block grant workforce development, education and training funding. Information on credit-based associate degree and certificate programs that are in direct response to local workforce development needs will also be sought.

To facilitate a more streamlined data collection approach in future years, AACC, NETWORK and TTRC staff will pilot test a mechanism that will allow a dozen colleges to update their institutions information through an on-line data transfer process. Once the new data collection process is in place in 1995-96, selected individuals at each participating college will be able to electronically update their data.

Later in the project year, the AACC/NETWORK staff will be able to review cumulative data in major service delivery areas such as workplace literacy or customized training. The cumulative data will include the total number of individuals served in a given area, the total number of contracts with business and industry in that area, and whenever possible, the total dollar amount of those contracts. This new capability will aid the project staff, as well as researchers who have expressed an interest in examining community college growth in the delivery of public and private sector workforce development services.

Finally, the U.S. Department of Labor in the spirit of NAFTA, has responded positively to requests from AACC/NETWORK staff to permit Canadian Community Colleges to list their workforce development programs and services in the database. The project staff requested that Canadian colleges be included in the database in response to requests from more than a dozen Canadian college officials who expressed an interest in listing their programs and services. The Canadian Community College information will boost international applications for the database for Canadian and U.S. Community Colleges. Information on private and public sector programs will be useful to community college international program specialists in both countries as they respond to international requests for proposals to deliver workforce development related services.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE DATABASE, PLEASE CONTACT :

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