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Building Tomorrow's Workforce: Industry & Community College Partnership Key To Long-term Economic Growth

Ann Arbor, MI – Strategic relationships between industry and community colleges will boost our economy over the long-term by training tomorrow's workers for future jobs. According to "Building Tomorrow's Workforce," a report sponsored by Lumina Foundation for Education, many future workers will be younger documented Hispanic immigrants who often lack higher education credentials.

Regardless of the current economic woes, the workforce in 2014 will be strongly defined by two factors: the departure of large numbers of "baby boomers" and the rapid growth of the Hispanic workforce. These legal immigrants need greater postsecondary opportunities in order to fill expected gaps in industry sectors related to infrastructure and green manufacturing.

"We found examples of successful partnerships between manufacturers and community colleges that are committed to helping today's workforce gain the supply chain skills this industry sector needs," said Jeannine La Prad, President and CEO of the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce, which led the study. "These models have implications for every business and industry that will need to consider the inevitable demographic shifts that will shape the workforce for decades to come."

Overall, the U.S. labor force will grow from 147 million to 162 million between 2004 and 2014 entirely as a result of population growth. However, the proportion of "native" workers will remain flat over that time. As a result, without significant immigration, the national workforce would shrink substantially. Hispanics are the fastest growing segment of the population, but they are also one of the least educated. If the nation is to fill the projected workforce gaps, there will have to be a concerted effort to better educate documented Hispanic immigrants.

"Predictions are that despite today's economic situation, the U.S. will need significantly more highly educated workers as soon as 2014," said Sarita Brown, President of *Excelencia* in Education, a partner in the report. "For the proposed economic stimulus plans to have long-lasting and far-reaching effects, we must value all our workers and further the education and training for legal Hispanic immigrants."

"Building Tomorrow's Workforce" highlights six innovative partnerships between community colleges and manufacturers. Each program focuses on enrolling Hispanic immigrants with no postsecondary experience in college level coursework, on getting buy-in from employers, and on having strong commitment from a local community college. The programs are located in a variety of regions:

- Morgan Community College and Cargill Meat Solutions in Fort Morgan, Colorado
- Miami Dade College and Florida Power and Light in Miami, Florida

- Instituto del Progreso Latino (a community based organization), Humboldt Park Vocational Education Center, a campus of Wilbur Wright College, and ManufacturingWorks in Chicago, Illinois
- Shoreline Community College and Puget Sound Automobile Dealers Association in Seattle, Washington
- Central Texas Technology Center (CTTC), the workforce development training campus of Alamo Community College; Seguin Adult Education Cooperative; WorkSource Career Centers; and local industry, near San Antonio, Texas
- Cerritos Community College, One-Stop Workforce Center, and local employers in Los Angeles, California

For a full copy of “Building Tomorrow’s Workforce” and to arrange for interviews, please contact Alisa Kesten at 914-833-7093 or akesten@douglasgould.com. Spanish speaking spokespersons are available.

Contributors to “Building Tomorrow’s Workforce,” in addition to CSW and Excelencia, include the National Council for Workforce Education and the Center for Workforce Success of the National Association of Manufacturers.

Corporation for a Skilled Workforce (CSW) is a national nonprofit organization that helps communities develop good jobs and the highly skilled workers to fill them so families and firms can prosper. Since 1991, CSW has been a leader and trusted partner in helping business, government and community stakeholders collaborate, plan, and invest in their futures—sustainably—to help states and communities thrive. Through CSW’s research and policy work we help develop creative economic, workforce, and community development partnerships and solutions.

Excelencia in Education, a national non-profit, aims to accelerate higher education success for Latino students by providing data-driven analysis of the educational status of Latino students, and by promoting education policies and institutional practices that support their academic achievement. Excelencia is building a network of results-oriented educators and policymakers, adding value to their individual efforts with the means and momentum to address the U.S. economy’s need for a highly educated workforce.

The National Council for Workforce Education is a private, nonprofit, professional organization committed to promoting excellence and growth in workforce education at the postsecondary level. NCWE, an affiliate council of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), provides a national forum for administrators and faculty in occupational, vocational, technical, and career education as well as representatives of business, labor, military, and government, to affect and direct the future role of two-year and other postsecondary institutions in work-related education.

The National Association of Manufacturers is the leading advocate of a pro-growth, pro-manufacturing agenda. Its mission is to advocate on behalf of its members to enhance the competitiveness of manufacturers by shaping a legislative and regulatory environment conducive to U.S. economic growth and to increase understanding among policymakers, the media and the general public about the vital role of manufacturing in America’s economic and national security for today and in the future.

Lumina Foundation for Education is an Indianapolis-based private foundation dedicated to expanding access to and success in education beyond high school.

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