Libraries as Community Partners in the Workforce Development System

Elizabeth Iaukea, Digital Inclusion Librarian, Washington State Library
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Helping people level up their skills to get good jobs is a shared responsibility in every community.
AMERICAN LIBRARIES
THE EDUCATION ON RAMP
The Educonomy “Coin”

Skills are the new currency!
The Educonomy Ecosystem

Linking education & training programs to economic opportunities

- Students & Parents
- Educators & Counselors
- Employment & Companies
- Occupations & Jobs
- Certifications
- Programs & Providers
- Career Seekers
Career Information Architecture
The Educonomy Ecosystem

Facilitating career readiness through in-demand career information

- **Business & Industry**
  - Demand: Employment, Wages & Projections

- **Occupations & Jobs**
  - Pathways: Industry to occupation to program & credentials

- **People & Talent**
  - Supply: Knowledge, Skills, Abilities

**EDUCONOMY**
H.o.m.e.w.o.r.k. = Half Of My Energy Wasted On Random Knowledge.
HERE’S A COMPELLING EXAMPLE FROM NEVADA

Karsten Heiss
Technology Commercialization Director
Governors Office of Economic Development, and a member of the State Council on Libraries and Literacy (SCLL)

Milton Chen, Ph.D. Co-Founder of the George Lucas Foundation addressing a group of Nevada educators, including librarians, in Carson City, 2016. He is also the Chair of the Panasonic Foundation.

Dr. Milton Chen is senior fellow and executive director, emeritus at The George Lucas Educational Foundation (GLEF), a non-profit operating foundation in the San Francisco Bay Area that utilizes its multimedia website, Edutopia.org, and documentary films to communicate a new vision for 21st Century education.
Carson City Library MT1 Program - 2 minute video
Libraries are free for all ages for all time!
Implications for Workforce Development

• **CTE Alignment** – Are we being strategic about scaling and curtailing programs based on ROI and employer input?

• **Postsecondary Training** - Are we being strategic about scaling and curtailing programs based on ROI? How about relevant work experience & skills in curriculum?

• **Workforce Training Providers** – Are we being strategic about WIOA financial investments that leads to high demand & high-wage careers? Is labor market data being leveraged?

• **Employer Engagement** – Are we leveraging student engagement, STEM/CTE outreach, work-based learning, mentorship programs, CTE competitions, scholarships, speaking & lecturing, industry tours, & apprenticeships?
Let's talk about the program

Participant assessment. Who needs this?
Who Am I?

Where am I going?

How do I get there?

Explore:
- Interest inventory & assessment
- Self-exploration & journaling
- Career information & avocation

Decide:
- School, training and certifications
- Work experience, internship
- Professional development

Grow:
- Goal setting
- Planning
- Action

Employment & Career Advancement
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