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CONTINUING EDUCATION and WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: ADULT EDUCATION and JOB TRENDS

The 21st century job market is continuously reinvented by emerging industries and technology. What are the fastest-growing job opportunities in Central Texas, and how do we prepare the workforce? How can we tailor programs specific to grades 9-14 (high school and community college) with an emphasis on workforce preparation?

PANELISTS & MODERATOR:

- Tamara Atkinson: Deputy Director, Workforce Solutions (Moderator)
- Steve Jackobs: Executive Director, Capital IDEA
- Mike Midgley: Vice President of Workforce Education, Austin Community College
- Alan Miller: Executive Director, Workforce Solutions Capital Area
- Jon Roberts: Managing Director, Tip Strategies

KEY INDUSTRIES FOR EMPLOYMENT IN GREATER AUSTIN AREA:

- Education
- Government
- Health Care
- Information Technology
- Energy
 - Green Energy (solar, wind, biomass)
 - Energy Distribution
- Creative Media

RESOURCES IN CENTRAL TEXAS:

Austin Community College: www.austincc.edu

Capital Area Workforce Solutions: www.wfscapitalarea.com

Capital IDEA: www.capitalidea.org

Digital Workforce Academy: www.dwacademy.org



Visit www.peoplefund.org for additional resources.

WHY CONTINUING EDUCATION?

"The President hasn't forgotten about the 30 or so community colleges he visited during the 2008 campaign. These institutions are our nation's trade schools, training 59% of our new nurses as well as cranking out wind-farm technicians and video-game designers — jobs that, despite ballooning unemployment overall, abound for adequately skilled workers. Community-college graduates earn up to 30% more than high school grads, a boon that helps state and local governments reap a 16% return on every dollar they invest in community colleges. But our failure to improve graduation rates at these schools is a big part of the achievement gap between the U.S. and other countries. As unfilled jobs continue to head overseas, Obama points to the "national-security implication" of the widening gap. Closing it, according to an April report from McKinsey & Co., would have added as much as \$2.3 trillion, or 16%, to our 2008 GDP."

- From *Can Community Colleges Save the U.S. Economy?* Time, 7/20/09