



COMMONWEALTH CORPORATION

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## P-21 Initiative Announced at Youth Summit

**M**assachusetts Director of Workforce Development Jane C. Edmonds and Department of Education Commissioner David Driscoll kicked off the first **Pathways to Success by 21** or P-21 Summit in Worcester on November 16, where a new statewide effort to help at-risk youth was launched. Director Edmonds and Commissioner Driscoll are co-chairs of the initiative, which is staffed by Commonwealth Corporation. The P-21 Initiative is designed to ensure that every young person in the Commonwealth is on a path to productive adulthood by the time they reach the age of 21.

Current data points to the pressing need for an initiative  
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*Panelists (left to right) Rep. Peter Larkin, Judith Gill of the Board of Higher Education, and Jonathan Raymond of CommCorp speak at the P-21 Summit.*

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## CommCorp Explores the Earnings and Employment Outcomes of Training

**C**ommCorp's Center for Research and Evaluation recently released two new briefs which look at the impact of Massachusetts' workforce development programs on the earnings and employment outcomes of the low-income adults who participate in these programs.

The two briefs, "Training Matters: Earnings and Employment Effects by Gender and Service Type" and "Training Matters: Earnings and Employment Effects by Type of

Service Provider" are the second and third in a series of briefs which looked at individuals who participated in Job Training Partnership Act-funded workforce development programs, and compared them to individuals who completed an objective assessment, were deemed eligible to participate, and yet did not.

Explored are individuals' outcomes, which vary by gender,  
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## P-21

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such as P-21. Each year three percent of Massachusetts high school students drop out before graduating and some estimate that the four-year dropout rate across the state may reach as high as 30%. Additionally, nearly half of all 16 to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school across the Commonwealth were high school dropouts. At the same time, nearly 36% of all out-of-school youth in this age group was unemployed, the highest incidence being among dropouts (48%), black youth (60%) and Latino youth (46%).

Evidence suggests that a significant proportion of these young people who are dropouts and not working, at some point over their childhood were in state custody — either in foster care, court involved, or involved with the Department of Mental Health, the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, or the Department of Transitional Assistance.

“P-21 represents a bold new effort on the part of the leaders of the various agencies that serve youth and young adults to examine this issue more closely and begin collaborating in new ways to address this issue,” said Edmonds. “It also represents an effort on the part of local areas across the state to examine how they deliver services at both the local and regional levels, and to begin developing better ways of collaborating.”

The summit included a youth panel discussion, at which young people discussed the issues and concerns they face, and some practical steps forward. An afternoon panel brought together commissioners and other leaders of the P-21 state partners, including Elmer Bartels, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, Robert Bickerton of the Department of Education, Judith Gill, Chancellor of the Board of Higher Education, State Representative Peter Larkin, and others.

## Outcomes of Training

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type of service received, and the type of service provider.

The study found that the positive effects of participation in a workforce development program are somewhat larger for men than for women. In the second year after program completion, men saw an average annual earnings increase of \$2,800 in comparison to the comparison group, while women saw an increase of \$2,100.

Outcomes also varied by the types of services received, with the largest program effects being seen for those receiving integrated occupational skills and basic training. Women and men also see different effects from different services. While men see the largest gains from basic education or basic skills training, women’s largest effects are from integrated occupational and basic training.

People also can be served by many different types of training providers, from community-based organizations to trade-technical schools to employer-based programs and others. For the sample overall, the largest effects were seen from community-based organizations, but again, the effects are different for women and men. Men saw greater effects from employer-based organizations.

The two briefs are available at [www.commcorp.org/cre](http://www.commcorp.org/cre).



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