Community Colleges as Engines of Opportunity

Exploring the Impact of the TAACCCT Program
What is TAACCCT?

- $2 billion grant program created in 2010.
- Meant to increase the CCs capacity for providing training for in-demand jobs.
- Largest ever direct, federal investment in CCs.
- Funded over 200 grants to more than 700 colleges over 4 rounds in all 50 states.
Our Research
The Goal

Using the final grant evaluations, we wanted to look at the impact of TAACCCT and assess which strategies seemed to best support students.
The Process

- Our team reviewed **216 final evaluations** of individual TAACCCT grants.

- Each evaluation was rated by 2 team members based on criteria like the quality of implementation and results.
The Process

- We used the top rated evaluations to:
  - inform a qualitative look at 2 common strategies implemented in the grants: prior learning assessment and student advising.
  - narrow down the evaluations that could be used in the analysis of the impact of the program.
  - inform our Blueprint recommendations.
Phases of Meta-Analysis Review

Phase One: Acquire copies of third-party evaluation studies

Phase Two: 73 studies eliminated due to descriptive analysis only

Phase Three: 77 studies eliminated due to not using rigorous (QED) design

Phase Four: 30 studies excluded due to unclear or incomplete statistics
What We Found

TAACCCT participants were:

- Nearly twice (91%) as likely to complete a program or earn a credential as comparison students.
- 27% more likely to have positive labor market outcomes (employment or wage gain) than comparison students.
Our Blueprint
**Size & Scale**

- *Eligible Grantees.* Single state consortium of CCs or large (>15,000 FTE) single CCs.

- *Grant Size.* Between $10mn & $15mn for a total of 50 grants per round.

- *Timeline.* 18 months between rounds. 4 year grants. 6 years for data collection.
Administration

- A new Federal Office. 5% for ED & DOL to administer and evaluate. Have the program administered by DOL and ED like School to Work.

- State Role. 5% for states to sustain & scale. Commitment to scaling, sustainability, & data.
Interventions and Activities

- **Focus Interventions.** Focus on student services first (for the first 25% of the grant). Then, focus on one or two other interventions.

- **Prohibited Activities.** Grant may not be used for wages in work based learning opportunities or to pay student tuition and fees.
Evaluation

- External implementation and sustainability evaluation for each grant.

- 30% of grantees receive extra funding if they demonstrate the ability to do an impact evaluation.