

Executive Summary

This report presents results of an independently contracted evaluation of activities and services delivered under the School-to-Work Opportunities Act of 1994 (PL 103-239) by the Capital Area Education and Careers Partnership (the Partnership). School-to-Work activities (known as “School-to-Career” in Texas) are provided largely through 27 existing regional School-to-Career (STC) Partnerships operating in the 28 Local Workforce Development Areas with funds provided by a five-year federal grant administered by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).¹ The Partnership has received four successive one-year grants from TWC to implement School-to-Career activities in Travis County. As part of the Year Four (SFY 2001) grant, TWC required grantees to arrange an independent evaluation of their Year Three (SFY 2000) activities that included recommendations for program improvements. This report is in response to that requirement.

The remaining three sections of the report present the evaluation results. Section II discusses the accomplishments of the Partnership in attaining its stated annual objectives as found in the planning/reporting matrix that the Partnership submits to TWC (and which also serves as the annual work statement for grant purposes). Section III provides a broader overview of the Partnership’s accomplishments, as well as persistent constraints that the regional, collaborative and voluntary approach to STC faces. The final Section IV provides recommendations for the Partnership regarding more immediate operational considerations.²

¹ The five-year federal grant awarded to Texas totaled \$61.3 million. The Year Three allocation for the Capital Area was \$430,094. By comparison, the total Year One allocation was \$381,831 and the Year Two allocation was \$440,000.

² O’Shea and King (2000), *op. cit.*, offered broader recommendations for actions regarding strategy, system-building, sustainability, and accountability/continuous improvement in the context of changing labor markets and rapid technology developments that remain pertinent to STC in and beyond Central Texas.