

# TEXAS WORKFORCE DATA QUALITY INITIATIVE

A joint project by the Texas Workforce Commission and the LBJ School's  
Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources at The University of Texas

November 2011

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The goal of the Texas Workforce Data Quality Initiative (WDQI) is to create a comprehensive system that will strengthen and expand the state's longitudinal data systems and promote continuous improvement of workforce, education, and employment programs.

While Texas' workforce and education data systems are generally regarded as well integrated, that integration tends to be horizontal (intra-system/sector) with only limited inter-system/sector linkages. The workforce and education systems currently have very limited connections for data sharing.

The Texas Workforce Commission has partnered with the Ray Marshall Center to demonstrate the capacity for linking inter-system workforce and education records, as well as the ways in which such linked data can be used to inform policymakers and program administrators.

## RESEARCH COMPONENTS

The Texas WDQI project has three components:

1. An expansion of the Ray Marshall Center's Central Texas Student Futures Project ([www.centexstudentfutures.org](http://www.centexstudentfutures.org)), which tracks high school graduates into postsecondary education and employment, to include longitudinal workforce program participation, vital statistics, and other data.
2. Enhanced workforce and education system reporting under Texas Senate Bill 281, which requires the Texas Workforce Commission to maintain and operate an automated follow-up evaluation system.
3. Development of recommended strategies and options to systematically remove barriers to full longitudinal data integration across workforce and education systems.

## DATA LINKAGES FOR TEXAS WDQI

### Texas Workforce Commission

- Workforce program participation:
  - Workforce Investment Act
  - Employment Services
  - TANF Employment & Training
  - SNAP Employment & Training
  - Trade Adjustment Assistance
  - Apprenticeship
- UI wage records
- UI claims files
- Texas Vital Statistics data

### Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

- Texas enrollment and course data

### Texas Education Agency

- Student, staff, organization, and financial data
- State accountability test scores (TAKS)

### National Student Clearinghouse

- Postsecondary enrollment and completion data

### Central Texas Student Futures Project

- Senior Survey
- High School transcript data
- Class rank

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Grady Giffin [grady.giffin@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:grady.giffin@twc.state.tx.us)  
Tara Smith [tarasmith@raymarshallcenter.org](mailto:tarasmith@raymarshallcenter.org)

