

The 188th IDEC ASIA Seminar

Promoting Postsecondary Success Through a Regional University Partnership

Date/Time: March 4 (Thu.), 2010 / 10:00-12:00
Venue: Large Conference Room (1st floor), IDEC

Presenter: **Dr. Christopher T. King, Director**
Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources
Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs,
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The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce is unusual for a regional business membership organization because it regularly engages in efforts to improve conditions not only for its members but also for the larger community. In the 1990s, the Chamber hosted and funded a new school-to-work intermediary organization now known as Skillpoint Alliance. By the 2000s, Chamber leadership had become concerned about the rapid growth of population groups, especially low-income and Hispanic students, who had much lower rates of postsecondary education enrollment, a situation that they thought could threaten the Austin's prospects for economic growth.

In 2004, the Chamber approached the Ray Marshall Center about launching a project to better understand where the region's graduates were going after high school, determine factors associated with their postsecondary outcomes, and foster improvements in education policy and practice that would improve graduates' chances of success. This project — designed by students at the LBJ School and led by the Ray Marshall Center's director and co-director — built upon the Center's established niche in linking complex, confidential datasets for longitudinal policy research, as well as its extensive knowledge of education and workforce programs.

The Central Texas Student Futures Project began as a pilot with four school districts in 2005 and has expanded to eleven school districts, more than 30 high schools and around 11,000 graduates in 2010. Each year, the Center publishes reports and briefs local leaders on the results of the annual senior survey and postsecondary outcomes for each year's graduates. The project may expand to other regions in the future based on its success.

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