

Good Employees + Good Jobs = Economic Success

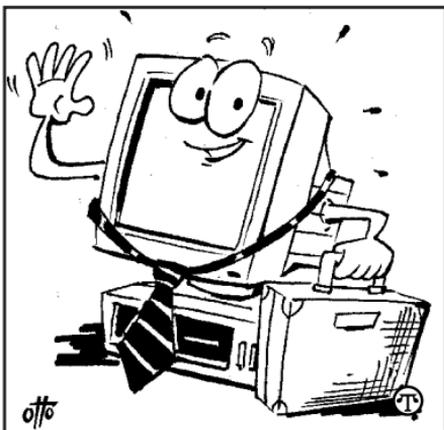
(NAPSA)—Wanted: Skilled workers. Four out of five new jobs require a postsecondary degree, studies show—yet three out of five of the 110 million American workers have only a high-school diploma. At the same time, workforce and education issues are the top priority of the employers in four out of five of the nation's largest Chambers of Commerce.

Ending this mismatch and building educational and economic success for millions is the goal of Jobs for the Future (JFF).

This Boston-based nonprofit has earned a national reputation for developing innovative ways to ensure that education leads to economic opportunity for individuals and economic success for the businesses that hire them. Its co-founder and CEO, Hilary Pennington, recently co-chaired the Presidential Advisory Committee on Expanding Training Opportunities.

"At the center of our work is an idea we call 'accelerating advancement,'" says JFF President Marlene B. Seltzer. "Basically, this is an approach to enabling people to move further in their education and careers, faster than before. It focuses on solutions that really work, reach more people, and can improve educational and economic policy on a national scale."

Early College High Schools are an example of accelerated advancement in operation—small schools from which students leave with both a high-school diploma and two years of college credit. "Early College High Schools have the potential to improve graduation rates and better prepare students for entry into high-skill careers," says Seltzer. "They accelerate young people's progress toward the education and experience they



Educated workers are needed to compete in today's knowledge-based world.

need to succeed in life and a family-supporting career." The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, in partnership with the Carnegie Corporation, the Ford Foundation and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, has invested over \$40 million in a major effort to create 70 Early College High Schools over the next five years. The foundation came to JFF to lead this effort.

Another successful JFF project, called Origin, Inc., seeks out large corporate customers that can offer technology-intensive jobs, then partners with local organizations to prepare low-income residents for these jobs, which pay at least \$25,000 a year. Origin's first customers include Citigroup and JP Morgan Chase.

"A critical first step is access to good jobs like these," says Pennington. "Origin—like all our projects—is based on the idea that the real objective is long-term: helping people advance in careers and become productive and valued citizens and employees."

To learn more about what JFF is doing to create opportunities for youth and adults, visit www.jff.org.