

TRANSFORMING U.S. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY CONFERENCE

Unemployment Policies

In October 2014, the Heldrich Center for Workforce Development and the Federal Reserve Banks of Atlanta and Kansas City held a national conference, **Transforming U.S.**

Workforce Development Policies for the 21st Century. As we gear up for **Investing in America's Workforce**, a national conference in Austin, Texas this fall, we explore the topic of **Unemployment Policies**. Please see the list of the following products from the 2014 conference and accompanying book to learn what was discussed. Learn more about the **Investing in America's Workforce** initiative at <https://www.investinwork.org/>.

Strategies for Helping Long-term Unemployed Job Seekers Return to Work | Maria Heidkamp (panel summary)

As of October 2014, three million individuals in the United States were long-term unemployed, with two million of them having been out of work for more than a year. This session posed the following question: How can the public workforce system improve its outreach and services to the more than three million long-term unemployed, including those who have been out of work a year or longer?

Reemploying Unemployment Insurance Claimants: A Good Government Investment | Richard A. Hobbie and Yvette J. Chocolaad (book chapter)

In this chapter, the authors offer a strategy to re-employ unemployment insurance claimants using dedicated and cost-effective eligibility assessments and job search assistance. Evidence supporting this strategy began accumulating in the late 1980s; however, resources to implement it have not been fully or consistently allocated by the federal government. The authors discuss the challenges to effective implementation, the evidence

on cost-effectiveness, the U.S. Department of Labor "Reemployment Vision," and recommendations for improving federal policy in this area.

Platform to Employment: Putting the Long-Term Unemployed Back to Work | Joseph Carbone (book chapter)

Long-term unemployment is a barrier that prevents workers from competing to find new employment, and the Great Recession degraded the value of common workforce system tools. While established incentives for businesses to hire new workers will not work on their own, these programs can make a difference when accompanied by wraparound supports that address a job candidate's ability to compete. The chapter details the Platform to Employment program, an example of a working remedy for the long-term unemployed that is fostering discussion about the culture of workforce development. It describes what the program entails, its funding sources, the results of the pilot program, as well as replication activity.

Supporting Experienced Long-Term Unemployed Professionals: Preliminary Lessons from a Boston-Area Case Study | Ofer Sharone, Rand Ghayad, Gokce Basbug, Alex Vasquez, and Michelle Rosin (book chapter)

In this chapter, the authors present a case study focused on long-term unemployment among experienced college-educated professionals. To look more closely at long-term unemployment among this group and to explore possible interventions supporting them in reentering the workforce, the authors invited long-term unemployed professionals to participate in research that would either offer them free career coaching/counseling or pay them to complete surveys.

Video Interviews

Please click on the interview subject's name to view their recommendations on what should be done to address the workforce challenges facing the United States. Each of these individuals served as a panelist in the October 2014 conference.

Joe Carbone, President and CEO, The WorkPlace

Genie Cohen, CEO, International Association of Jewish Vocational Services

Stephen Wandner, Visiting Fellow, Urban Institute