



One W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Suite 200  
Cincinnati, OH 45202-2015

phone: (513) 929-1101  
fax: (513) 929-1123  
toll free: (877) 852-3863  
[www.kwfdn.org](http://www.kwfdn.org)

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KnowledgeWorks Foundation, an educational operating foundation based in Cincinnati, Ohio, is dedicated to fulfilling the promise of learning for all in a dynamic world. We believe that our work provides compelling lessons and results from two of our most successful ventures--transforming the urban high schools in Ohio and restructuring Ohio's adult workforce and training system.

The Obama Administration has committed to address the high school dropout crisis as well as support college credit initiatives. Our initiatives in the Ohio High Schools provide replicable national models to increase graduation rates and the number of students earning college credit while in high school. We worked with secondary schools throughout Ohio to convert dysfunctional large schools into successful small schools and to create a network of Early College High Schools. These new schools boost opportunity, choice, and relevance for all Ohio students, particularly those in struggling urban districts.

President-Elect Obama has publicly stated the Workforce Investment Act needs to be reauthorized and retooled to focus on providing "high-quality education and training services and creating pathways to skills and credentials that have value in the labor market." To address this very issue, in 2002 KnowledgeWorks launched the Ohio Bridges to Opportunity Initiative. Its purpose was to transform Ohio's workforce and training policies by creating new education pathways that would get more low-wage working adults the education and credentials they need to thrive in the new workplace. Not only have the resulting policies and programs been a success, including a nationally recognized model for Career Pathways on community college campuses, but this initiative also led to the legislative realignment of postsecondary workforce education.

In both of these cases, KnowledgeWorks moved these bulky, entrenched, and antiquated systems from being driven by the principles developed to support the industrial economy to being more nimble, responsive, and supportive of the needs of the learner. We believe there is power in our models and methodology and we look forward to sharing our insights and expertise with you.

Sincerely,

Chad P. Wick  
President and CEO

Richard W. Riley  
Secretary of Education