SHOP TALK # 60:
Putting the WIA Incentive Grant to Use

Texas was awarded a WIA Incentive Grant for exceeding its federal performance measures in 2009-2010. The award of $3,000,000 was split between the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) for its Title I programs and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for its Title II allowable activities. The TWC portion went to fund a veteran education program enacted by the Heroes bill passed during the last Texas legislative session. TEA directed its $1.5 million grant to fund a statewide College and Career Readiness and Pathways initiative.

The goal of TEA’s initiative is to build student pathways to college and career readiness by creating and implementing tools, support, and professional development for adult education programs across the state. There are four primary objectives:

1. Provide Counseling to Careers Training through contractor Jobs for the Future (JFF) and create a cadre of trainers to facilitate teacher training to all adult education programs.
2. Work with JFF to introduce contextualization tools at eight pilot sites, with training occurring at the local teacher level in both specific occupations and academics.
3. Provide train-the-trainer opportunities to assist local programs in developing, planning, and implementing college and career readiness and transition activities in each program.
4. Create resources and professional development for teachers in the use of effective General Educational Development (GED®)-to-college models, and initiate the process of revising the Adult Education Content Standards.

Local programs will receive technical assistance and professional development over the two years following the end of the grant period to develop their local plans for reaching these objectives. A WIA Incentive Grant Team will be formed in the fall of 2012 to facilitate these processes and will consist of the following positions:

- Integrated Career Awareness consultant/contractor
- Contextualization consultant/contractor
- Transition/Career consultant/contractor
- Content Standards consultant/contractor
- JFF point person for GED® 2014-to-College Models

The WIA Incentive Team will work with the eight GREAT Centers to ensure that professional development is available to all local adult education programs across the state. Additional details will follow as they become available.