



**Barbara Endel, PhD**

**Program Director, Jobs for the Future**

**IL Coach**

**IL Trustees' Meeting**

**September 14, 2012**



# Accelerating Opportunity

## About Jobs for the Future

**Based in Boston, MA**

**A National Non-Profit Intermediary – 1983**

**Funded by philanthropic and federal grant resources**

**Develop and promote education and workforce strategies that expand opportunity and success for youth and adults**

**43 states and over 200 communities**

**Close to 100 staff working in four primary areas:**

- **College Ready**
- **College Success**
- **Career Advancement**
- **Policy Solutions**

# Today's Agenda



Brief Overview of Accelerating Opportunity

Illinois Accelerating Opportunity Plan

Implications and Opportunities for Trustees

# A National Need for Pathways to Marketable Credentials

- 93 million adults with basic or below basic literacy
- 13% of adults ages 25-64 have less than a high school credential
- 29% have a high school credential but no college.
- By 2018, only 36 percent of total jobs will require workers with just a high school diploma or less
- Since 1979, investments in adult education and workforce development programs have declined in real terms by more than 70%.
- Postsecondary credentials are the gateway to family-supporting wages that those credentials are critical to breaking the intergenerational transmission of poverty in America.





## **What Problem are We Trying to Solve?**

- IL has a significant population of low skill, low wage individuals with the need to acquire the right skills
- Many jobs in IL go unfilled because there are not enough trained workers
- IL must focus attention on the full continuum of workers – especially the lowest quartile (25%) in order to raise overall economic and workforce indicators

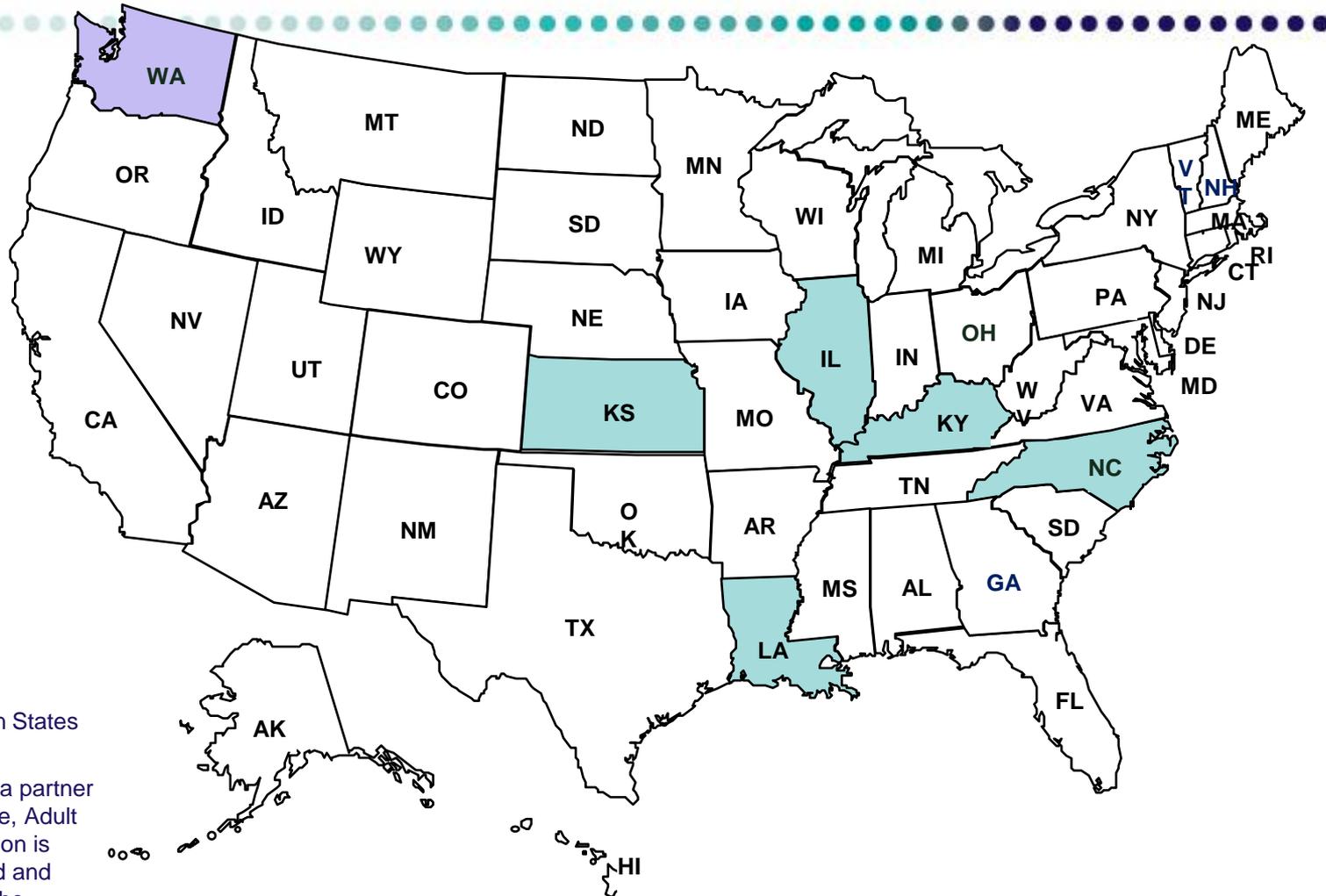
# Accelerating Opportunity: \$18.5 Million Initiative



- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Joyce Foundation, Kresge Foundation, Kellogg Foundation, and The Open Societies Foundations
- Four year initiative (Oct. 2010-Oct 2014)
- **Goals:**
  - 11 states engaged in a design phase (March – November, 2011)
  - IL, KS, KY, NC, and LA chosen for implementation - testing integrated basic skills models
  - State policy framework
  - Program costs
  - Evidence to build a national movement

# Accelerating Opportunity

## Opportunity for High Impact

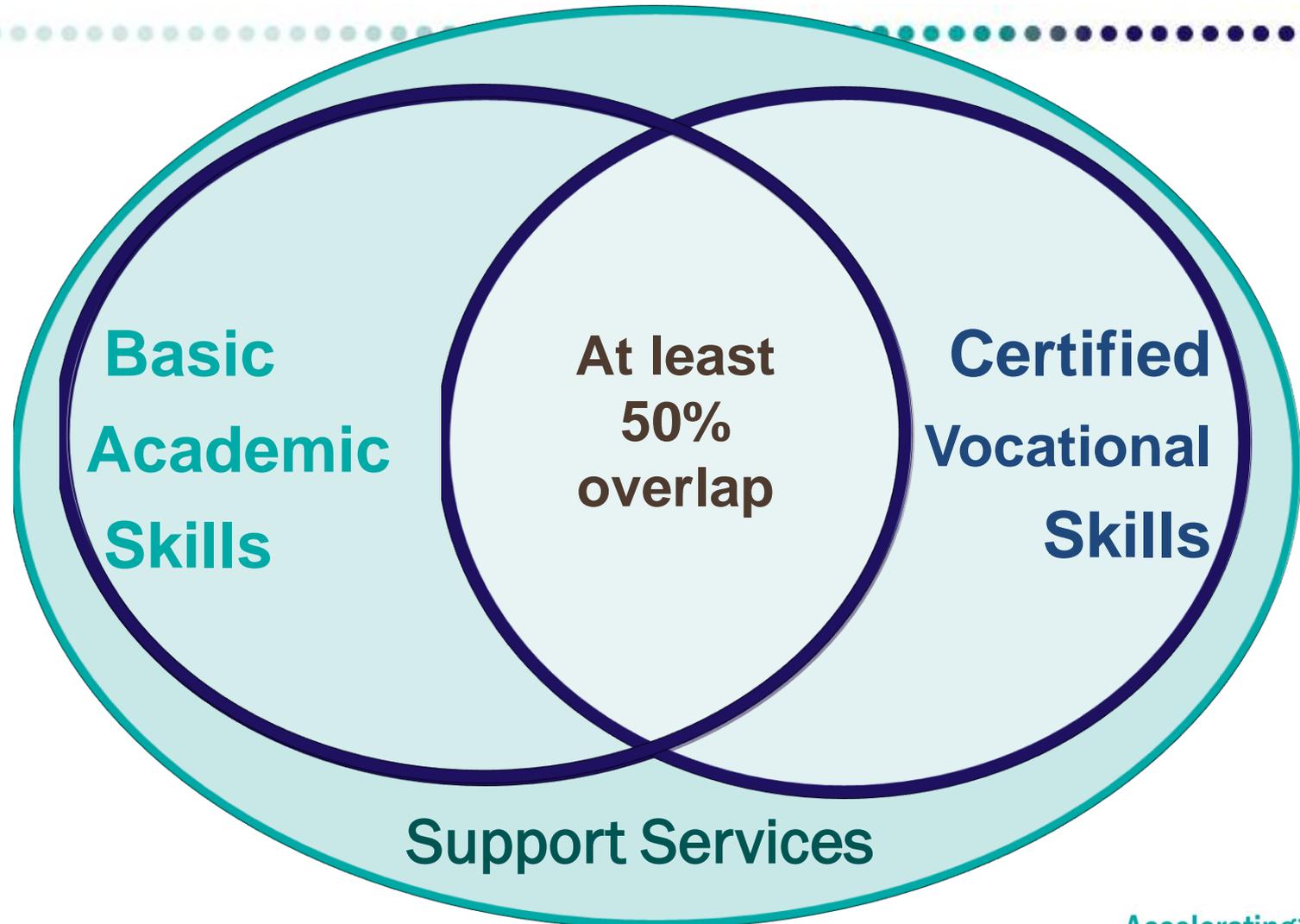


### Legend

 Accelerating Opportunity Implementation States

 WA, which is a partner in this initiative, Adult Basic Education is also governed and delivered by the community college system

# Promising Models: Washington's Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST)



## Team Teaching is the Heart of AO

- **I-BEST pairs a basic skills instructor and a career and technical instructor in the same classroom to jointly plan, teach, and assess students' learning and skills development.**
- **This allows students to earn college and workforce credentials at the same time.**



# Does it Work?

---

On average, I-BEST students were **15 times more likely** to complete their I-BEST skills training than were comparison ESL students (44% vs. 3%)

I-BEST students earned an average of 10-12 college credits, compared to 2-3 by comparison ESL students

I-BEST students language skills gains were similar to comparison ESL students

# Do Better and Go Further, Faster

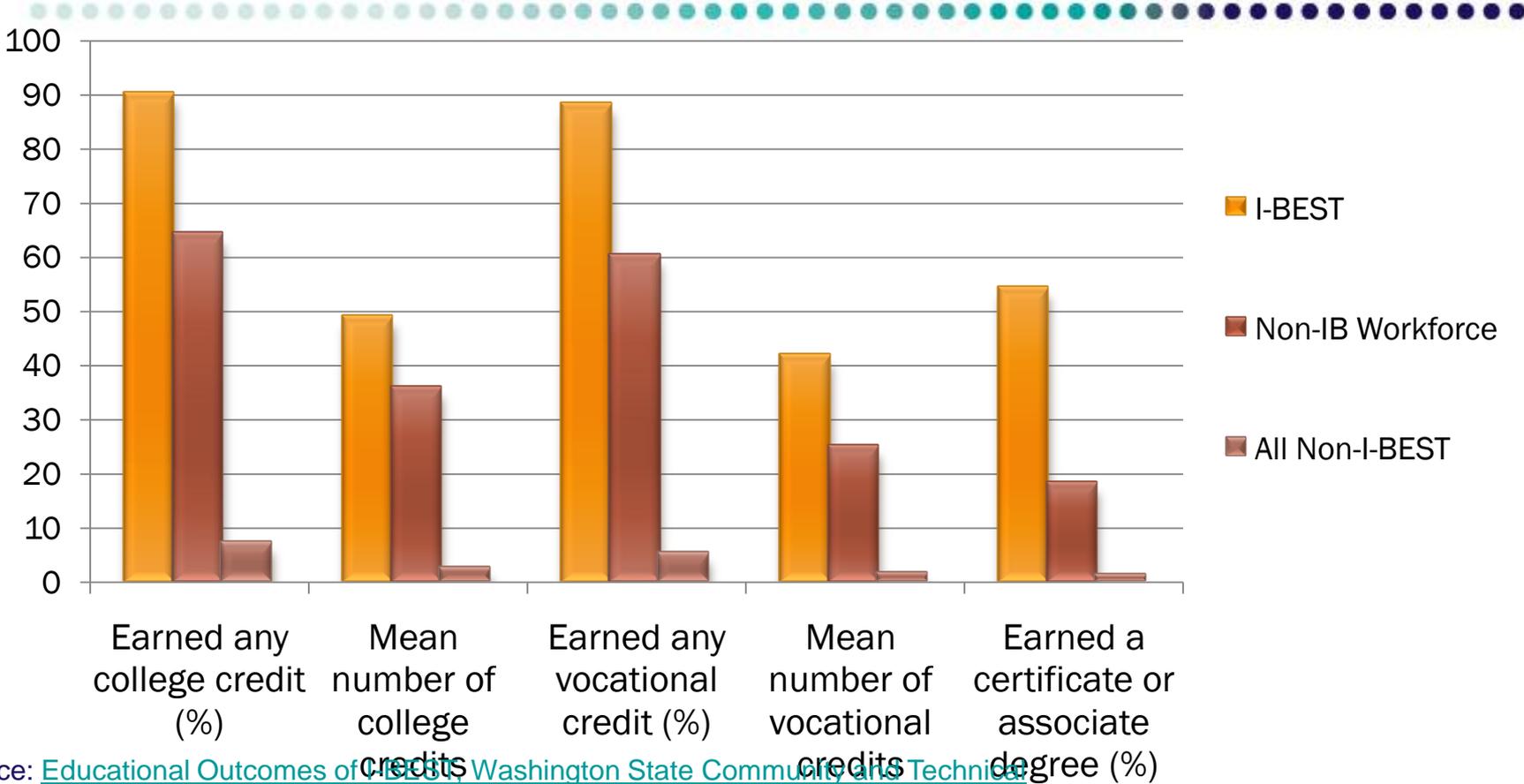
Columbia University's Community College Research Center found that I-BEST students in comparison with other basic skills students in workforce programs were:

- 3 times more likely to earn college credit
- 9 times more likely to earn an award



# Research and Evidence

Source: Columbia University



Source: [Educational Outcomes of Recent Washington State Community and Technical College System's Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training Program, Findings from a Multivariate Analysis](#), Community College Research Center, Columbia University

# Illinois Accelerating Opportunity Ambitious State Transformation Efforts

---

- Commitment to over 2,500 credentials by 2014
- Over 200 in demand workforce certificates attained already
- Policy win to include Adult Basic Education students into a state-wide performance funding framework
- Leading work in the country to leverage professional development to influence culture shift
- Commitment to working with employers – only state with an employer engagement strategy
- Scaling strategy that is starting now! 16 colleges on board by 2013

# Implications for trustees:

1. Support your college's Accelerating Opportunity Initiative by ensuring resources/policies/college leadership is engaged:

Danville

Lincoln Land

Daley

Lake Land

Elgin

Lewis & Clark

McHenry

College of Lake County

New campuses:

*Parkland*

*Ill Central*

*Blackhawk*

*Kishwaukee*

# Implications for trustees:

- 
2. Assist in the brokering of employer engagement at your home college to help foster understanding of employer needs and job placement

Identify business contacts, introduce colleagues, work your business network

# Implications for trustees:

3. Include this initiative in terms of “what gets measured” at your college.

- Ask for initiative updates
- Ask to see data periodically
- Ask about how or in what ways expansion and scale are happening
- Ask about how the financing is going to institutionalize the re-design

# Final Message

A decorative horizontal line of dots, starting with light teal dots on the left and transitioning to dark blue dots on the right.

- Illinois has the opportunity to build on a strong foundation of programming already started – expand, deepen, and focus on evidence based models to support your students, employers, and communities!

# Thank You!



Contact information:

Barbara Endel

Jobs for the Future

[bendel@jff.org](mailto:bendel@jff.org)

859-640-4296

[www.acceleratingopportunity.org](http://www.acceleratingopportunity.org)