

Workforce Development and Full Employment Remarks on a Paper by Harry Holzer

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Gratitude

Thanks for inviting me!

Osborne and Dhiren

And Harry too.

Big picture

Largely agree with what Harry has to say. We've talked before.

Glad to see Harry worried about general equilibrium effects.

Will mostly riff on some of Harry's themes.

Sectoral training programs

More of a mixed record than Harry's survey (or Larry's survey) suggests.

HPOG, etc.

Surprisingly low completion rates in some cases.

Screening, screening, screening. Scaling up means less screening. Screening means not helping the most disadvantaged.

For more see Section 6.5 of the Black, Skipper and Smith (2023) Handbook chapter, available for free as a CESifo working paper.

Full employment?

Unemployed versus out of the labor force meaningful any more?

Stock, flow, and kids.

Workforce development helps at the margin, at best.

Systems and data

Pell is the largest workforce program!

Institutional separation of two-year college and workforce systems.

Example: SE Michigan Study

Example: Leung and Pei (2020)

Too many programs? Better data would help.

Example: WGSE

Institutional separation of the unemployed from UI

Research agenda

Finishing! CT-OS, sectoral training, community college, etc.

- Supports (e.g. ASAP)
- Preparation
- Sorting
- Linkage
- NITUBI

General equilibrium effects of training

Caseworker training, preparation, matching, role, etc.