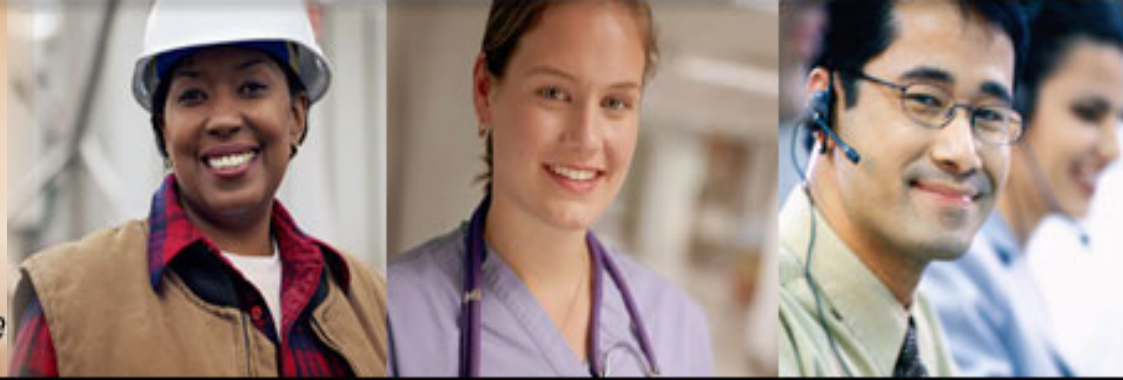




*Advocating for a Skilled, Productive and Prosperous Workforce*



# Expanded Access to Online Job Training: Opportunities and Limitations

*FCC Broadband Initiative Workshop*

Wednesday, August 26, 2009

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

# State of Online Learning

- ASTD estimates that e-learning made up 32.6% of all learning hours in the private sector in 2007
- Sloan Consortium found that 3.9 million college students taking at least one online course – up from 1.6 million in 2002
- Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (HR 3221) includes \$500 million over ten years for online education development
- 2006 repeal of “50% rule” allows institutions of higher learning to expand online learning options

# Advantages of Online Learning

- Can be an effective method of information transfer, and more sophisticated models (simulations, instructional games, etc.) are expanding learning opportunities
- Increased access for students – lower costs, self-pacing, fewer geographic limitations

# Limitations of Online Learning

- Not especially good at replacing hands-on learning where necessary
- Like all training, requires context and support to ensure learning “sticks”
- Still relatively unregulated, so difficult to determine quality of online offerings

# Access Only Part of The Problem

- “Reach Higher America” – National Commission on Adult Literacy reports that 93 million Americans lack literacy skills to enter postsecondary education and job training
- Michigan found that one-third of the state’s working age adults – 1.7 million people – lacked the basic skills to attain a family-sustaining job and contribute to the economy
- Low-skill, low-literacy individuals need access to literacy instruction – including computer literacy and ESL instruction – and to supportive services to fully benefit from expansion of online learning

# Range of Services

- In order to ensure individuals persist and complete all the way to a educational credential valued in the labor market, must provide:
  - Recruitment and outreach
  - Assessment
  - Career counseling
  - Services to promote persistence and completion
  - Supportive services, including child care and transportation

# Capacity

- Workforce investment system served 31 million Americans in twelve month period ending 3/31/09 – up from 19 million
- Increased enrollments, state budget crises mean many community colleges may limit admission in fall 2009
- Broadband expansion must be coupled with expanded access to computers, facilities...

# Connectivity

- Current job training, unemployment and adult and higher education systems not well-connected – different departments, different funding streams, different outcomes
  - Expanded access to online training should be incorporated into broader efforts to create seamless “career pathways” for dislocated and disadvantaged workers
  - Need to ensure online training tied to appropriate occupations, local and regional business needs – industry or sector partnerships
-



# Questions?

Kermit Kaleba

The Workforce Alliance

[kermitk@workforcealliance.org](mailto:kermitk@workforcealliance.org)

202-223-8991