

# COVID CONNECTIONS: Houston Community College, Gallery Furniture, and WorkTexas

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PRESENTED BY:

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# OBJECTIVES

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THE PARTNERSHIP  
APPROACH



ADVOCATING WITH  
EMPLOYERS



IDENTIFYING  
CRITICAL PATHWAYS



# INTRODUCTIONS

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Dr. Christina Robinson  
Executive Director, Adult Education & Literacy  
Houston Community College

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**HCC:** 58,276 STUDENTS ACROSS HOUSTON (29 Locations)

**FUNDING:** 5M IN GRANT FUNDING

**STUDENTS:** OVER 7000 AEL STUDENTS ACROSS SYSTEM

**PROGRAMS:** HSE, ESL, ESLP, TSI BOOTCAMP, CAREER4U ACADEMY

**MEMBER:**

- TX PEER MENTOR NETWORK
- CITY OF HOUSTON ADULT EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD

**FUNDING:**

- HOUSTON GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL CONSORTIUM
- ACCELERATE TEXAS



# Vanessa Ramirez

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- CO-FOUNDER & BOARD CHAIR OF WorkTexas
- Past
  - CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER and CHIEF PROGRAM OFFICER at SER JOBS
- Applications vs. Slots



# HISTORY

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**CAREER4U ACADEMY LAUNCHED 2018**

**5 ACADEMY CLUSTERS:**

- BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY
- CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT
- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- HEALTHCARE
- TRANSPORTATION

Seeking Employment partners for fully Integrated credit and non-credit programs across Houston,  
Currently 500+ students



# WorkTexas

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- MATTRESS MACK'S VISION
- THE WORKTEXAS STORY: FURNITURE STORE WITH A TRADE SCHOOL INSIDE, BECOMES A ONE-STOP COMMUNITY CENTER THAT HAPPENS TO SELL FURNITURE



# THE APPROACH

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at  
G|F GALLERY FURNITURE







# TWO GAP CHALLENGE

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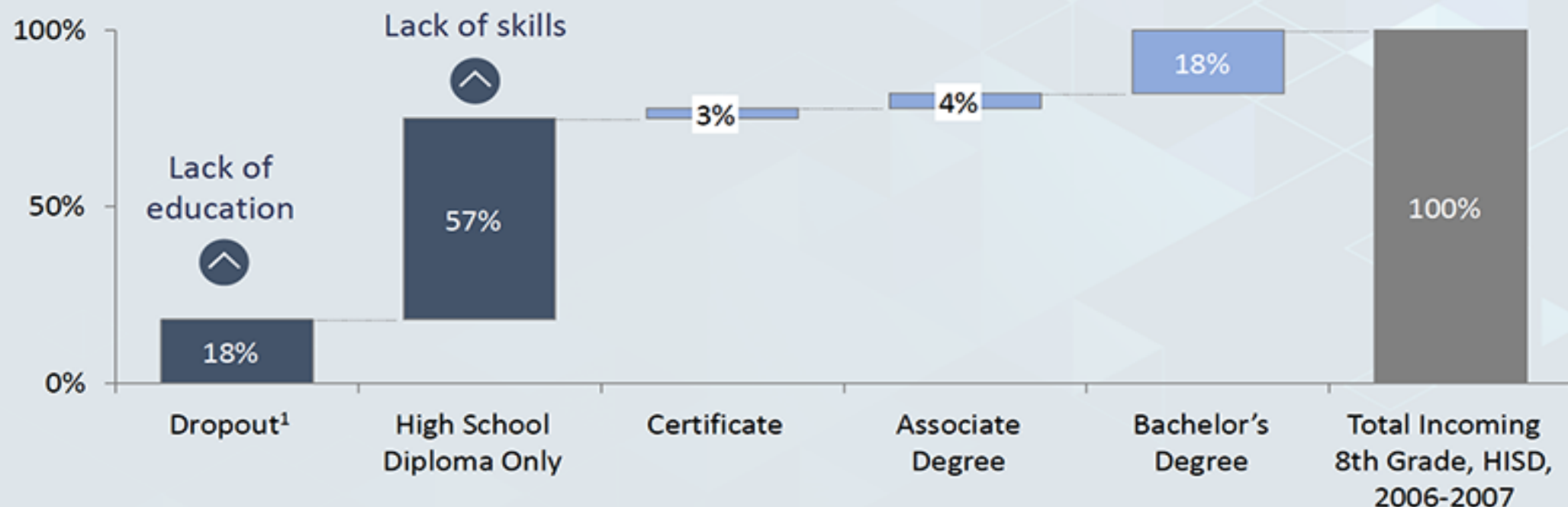
**SKILLS GAP:** PEOPLE LACK THE SKILLS THEY NEED FOR THE CAREERS THE INDUSTRY OFFERS.

**PEOPLE GAP:** EMPLOYERS CANNOT FIND THE WORKERS THEY NEED, WHEN AND WHERE THEY NEED THEM.

Upskill Houston, 2020

# EDUCATION/SKILLS NEEDED

**~75% of the incoming workforce may not possess the education/skills necessary to fill middle-skill jobs**



HISD Outcomes in 2017, from incoming Eighth Graders in 2006

1. Includes dropout and continuing students, for which outcomes were not tracked

Source: Transitioning to College and Work, Brian Holzman, Rice Houston Education Research Consortium (2016); study includes 26,738 HISD students



# COVID CONNECTIONS

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COVID WAS THE PERFECT TIME:

PARTNERSHIP AND LOCATION WAS CRITICAL

THE TOTAL POPULATION OF THE ACRES HOMES SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD WAS 27,831 DURING 2012. THE MAJORITY OF THE RESIDENTS WERE NON-HISPANIC BLACKS (71%) FOLLOWED BY HISPANICS (23%).

NEARLY TWO-FIFTHS (39%) HAD AN ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME LESS THAN \$25,000 WITH A MEDIAN INCOME OF \$39,315.

(WWW.HOUSTONTX.GOV)



# BE THE GLUE

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- PARTNER WITH A SUCCESSFUL TRAINING PARTNER (THANK YOU, HCC!)
  
- FIND THE UNEMPLOYED AND/OR UNDEREMPLOYED COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND CONNECT THEM TO:
  - SUPPORT SERVICES
  - JOB READINESS TRAINING
  - FINANCIAL COACHING
  - EMPLOYMENT PLACEMENT AND RETENTION SERVICES





# ADVOCACY

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# FINDING PARTNERS

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SPACE



EMPLOYERS



TECHNOLOGY



TOOLS



BRAIDED  
FUNDING

# NEW SPACE

- DUAL USE
- HIGH SCHOOL
- ADULT TRADE SCHOOL



# EMPLOYMENT PARTNERS

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**KINSEL**

G|F GALLERY FURNITURE

LINBECK



PERRY  
HOMES

A Tradition of Excellence







# TECHNOLOGY

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- GALLERY JOB CENTER RELOCATED
- MOCK INTERVIEWS
- TESTING
- ENROLLMENT
- APPLICATIONS
- CONTEXTUALIZED LEARNING



# BRAIDING FUNDING

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- WIOA
- GALLERY
- TPEG
- ACCELERATE TEXAS
- ABILITY TO BENEFIT
- WORKTEXAS
- HCC FOUNDATION
- EMPLOYER GRANTS



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# PROGRAMMATIC ADVOCACY

# WHAT STUDENTS WILL LEARN?

1. Carpentry
2. Electrical
3. Plumbing
4. Masonry
5. Landscaping
6. Painting and Finishing
7. Weatherization

# HOME BUILDERS INSTITUTE



# PROGRAM CREDENTIALS

- HCC CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION IN HOME BUILDING CONSTRUCTION
- HOME BUILDERS INSTITUTE PRE-APPRENTICESHIP CERTIFICATE
- RECOGNIZED DEPARTMENT OF LABOR CREDENTIAL



## Houston Community College System

The Trustees of the Houston Community College System on the recommendation of the Faculty have conferred upon

Joe David

in Electronic Engineering Technology, Associate Electronics

with all rights, privileges and honors pertaining thereto.

Given at Houston, Texas,

this fifteenth day of December, two thousand





# IDENTIFYING CRITICAL PATHWAYS

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# FOCUS AREAS

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## FORMALIZING EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT

- EMPLOYER-INFORMED TRAINING OFFERINGS
- EMPLOYERS AS TRAINING SITE HOSTS
- EMPLOYERS AS HANDS ON EXPERIENCE HOSTS

## RETAINING STUDENTS IN JOBS

- PROVIDE ONGOING SOFT & OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING
- EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIPS
- ONGOING SUPPORT SERVICES

## WAGE INCREASES

- UPSKILLING STUDENTS



powered by:





# PROMISE TO PATHWAY – ONE STOP SOLUTION

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- COLLEGE
- HS DIPLOMA
- CONTEXTUALIZED LEARNING
- TESTING
- FINANCIAL
- MENTAL HEALTH
- HEALTHCARE
- DAYCARE
- FOOD
- LEGAL SERVICES
- COACHING
- EMPLOYMENT





# WHAT'S NOT ON THE LIST?

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- COLLEGE
- CONTEXTUALIZED LEARNING
- TESTING
- FINANCIAL
- MENTAL HEALTH
- HEALTHCARE
- DAYCARE
- FOOD
- LEGAL SERVICES
- COACHING
- EMPLOYMENT



# QUESTIONS

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