
Docket Item:

Economic Mobility Outcomes for Learners in Oregon Institutions.

Summary:

In June 2019, the Oregon Business Council, in collaboration with the State of Oregon and the Oregon Community Foundation, entered into an agreement with Opportunity Insights to advance policies that increase the upward mobility of Oregon children and families. Opportunity Insights, based out of Harvard University, is a team of researchers and policy analysts working together to analyze new data and create a platform for local stakeholders to make more informed decisions. This agreement is a partnership to apply the expertise of Opportunity Insights to three fundamental areas that limit upward mobility:

- (1) Neighborhood and community conditions, led by the Oregon Community Foundation
- (2) Housing undersupply and the lack of high-density housing options, led by ECONorthwest
- (3) Access to postsecondary education and training, led by the HECC

The third area supports the Commission's reporting and equity goals. Opportunity Insights has an established body of work that demonstrates the extent to which college and university education can lead to upward mobility. This collaboration will extend this work with focused analyses of postsecondary education and training as a route to upward mobility for Oregonians. The Office of Research and Data will work with Opportunity Insights to specify the upward mobility that postsecondary enrollment and completion make possible, identify gaps in the opportunity to access that postsecondary boost, and explore ways to expand postsecondary access. Opportunity Insights and HECC will then collaborate with Oregon institutions to explore ways to close these gaps. We are pleased to introduce the Commission to this work with today's presentation of Opportunity Insights' findings about learners in Oregon institutions. Continued work will draw on Oregon student-level data to deepen and expand these analyses.

Opportunity Insights

The Fading American Dream

The defining feature of the American Dream is upward mobility – the aspiration that all children have a chance at economic success, no matter their background. However, our research shows that children's chances of earning more than their parents have been declining. 90% of children born in 1940 grew up to earn more than their parents. Today, only half of all children earn more than their parents did.

Opportunity Insights seeks to reverse this trend and revive the American Dream.

Our mission is to develop scalable policy solutions that will empower families throughout the United States to rise out of poverty and achieve better life outcomes

Laura Moore is the Deputy Policy Director at Opportunity Insights where she works with stakeholders across the country to develop scalable policies that empower families to rise out of poverty and achieve better life outcomes. She has more than a decade of experience working in policy at the national, state, and local levels. Before joining Opportunity Insights, she served as the Senior Advisor for Education for Nashville's last two mayors. In that role, she worked with the city's non-profit and educational institutions to promote policies that spur innovation and support parents and teachers. She also worked closely with Nashville and middle Tennessee's post-secondary institutions. Prior to joining the mayor's office, Moore served as the Vice President of Policy for the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce. She has also served as the Director of Innovation at the Tennessee State Collaborative on Reforming Education (SCORE). Moore began her career as the project and policy manager at Civic Enterprises, a public policy firm based in Washington, D.C. A Memphis native, Moore earned her bachelor's degree from Harvard University and her Masters of Public Policy from Vanderbilt's Peabody College.

Docket Material:

Attachment. "The Role of Oregon's Colleges and Universities in Economic Mobility."

Staff Recommendation:

None. Informational purposes only.