

**TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT
NOTICE**

NO.

37-10

DATE

May 4, 2011

TO: ALL STATE WORKFORCE LIAISONS
ALL STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE AGENCIES
ALL STATE ONE-STOP CAREER CENTER SYSTEM LEADS
ALL STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS

FROM: JANE OATES

Assistant Secretary



SUBJECT: Release and Availability of Employment and Training Administration (ETA)
Occasional Paper, *Evaluation of the Technology-Based Learning Grants Interim
Report*

1. Purpose. To announce the release and availability of the ETA Occasional Paper, *Evaluation of the Technology-Based Learning Grants Interim Report*, prepared by Social Policy Research (SPR) Associates.

2. Background. Technology-based learning (TBL) is usually defined as learning that takes place via some form of electronic technology, typically a computer, with materials accessed over the Internet or via CD-ROMs, or on a particular computer or group of computers in a computer lab. TBL is essentially synonymous with several other terms in common usage, including *e-learning*. Practically speaking, TBL is becoming increasingly inseparable from the Internet, but in a strict sense TBL is broader and more inclusive than terms referring to learning that occurs via the Internet, such as *online learning*.

In January 2009, ETA awarded funds to 20 grantees in 16 states under a \$10 million competitive grant opportunity to develop and implement TBL projects over a three-year period. Grantees include universities and community colleges, private non-profit organizations, a state workforce agency, and a local workforce investment board. The size of the TBL grants ranged widely, from a low of \$154,018 to a high of \$969,090, and grantees vary in whether they are developing new training programs or are expanding, updating or changing existing programs.

ETA contracted SPR to evaluate the TBL grant efforts. The evaluation features the collection and analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data. Qualitative data collection has occurred primarily through two sets of site visits to grantees. The first set, which included the six grantees that implemented their programs within the first ten months of the grant were visited in fall 2009. The second set of site visits, which included the 14 remaining grantees were visited during the spring and summer of 2010.

3. Publication Description. This interim report presents findings from the evaluation based primarily on data gathered during site visits to the six grantees that implemented their programs within the first ten months of the grant timeframe. The report focuses on the program design, administration, partnerships, and training methods used by these grantees. It also provides a

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brief discussion of preliminary outcomes and challenges as well as some promising practices that are emerging from these programs. The final report will be based on all data collected during the evaluation on the fourteen remaining grantees, and any significant activities of the first six grants. The final report is anticipated for release in summer 2011.

4. Inquires. To view an abstract of this publication, as well as to download the full report, visit the ETA Occasional Paper Series Web site at: <http://wdr.doleta.gov/research/keyword.cfm>.