

The Brookings Rockefeller Project on State and Metropolitan Innovation has published a paper entitled *Community Colleges and Regional Recovery: Strategies for State Action*

Introduction:

States that want to maximize their return on every public investment dollar to prepare for long-term, sustainable economic growth can use the current moment to their advantage. By championing an integrated workforce and economic development strategy based on improving student success in community colleges and promoting regional progress through partnerships, they can ensure a stable supply of skilled workers for area employers. To that end, states should embrace the following agenda:

Articulate a clear vision for the alignment of workforce development, post-secondary education, and economic development at the regional level, and regularly publicize progress

Improve student success and credential completion in community colleges

Identify and target priority clusters and industry sectors critical to regional competitiveness and expansion, promoting partnerships that engage community colleges in economic development

Here is the link to the entire paper:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2011/0518_community_college_kazis/0518_community_college_kazis.pdf