

The Power of Partnerships: How WIOA Programs Work Together

Melinda M. Paninski, TWC Vocational Rehabilitation Division

Dezeree Fraga, Workforce Solutions Borderplex

Bertha Torres, TWC Vocational Rehabilitation Division

The WIOA Promise: No Wrong Door

Are we fulfilling the promise?

- The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was designed to streamline services and create a seamless system for job seekers and businesses.
- The core idea is that a customer can walk into any American Job Center (Workforce Solutions Center) and get connected to everything they need.
- The Reality for many customers with disabilities, the system can still feel like a maze of separate agencies, repeated paperwork, and confusing handoffs.

Interactive Poll

Question: Which statement best describes your center current relationship with your core WIOA partners (Title I, Adult Ed, etc.)?

- A. Co-location: We share space and make referrals.
- B. Coordinated: We have regular meetings and some joint projects.
- C. Collaborative: We have integrated teams, braided funding, and shared outcomes.
- D. Just Getting Started: We're still building basic relationships.

The Limits of Co-location

What it looks like

- Warm handoffs down the hall
- Awareness of other programs
- Separate funding streams
- Shared physical space

The Challenge





- Separate cultures, processes & data systems
- Customer tells their story multiple times
- Lack of deep, functional integration
- Services are stacked, not blended

Co-location is a start, not the destination



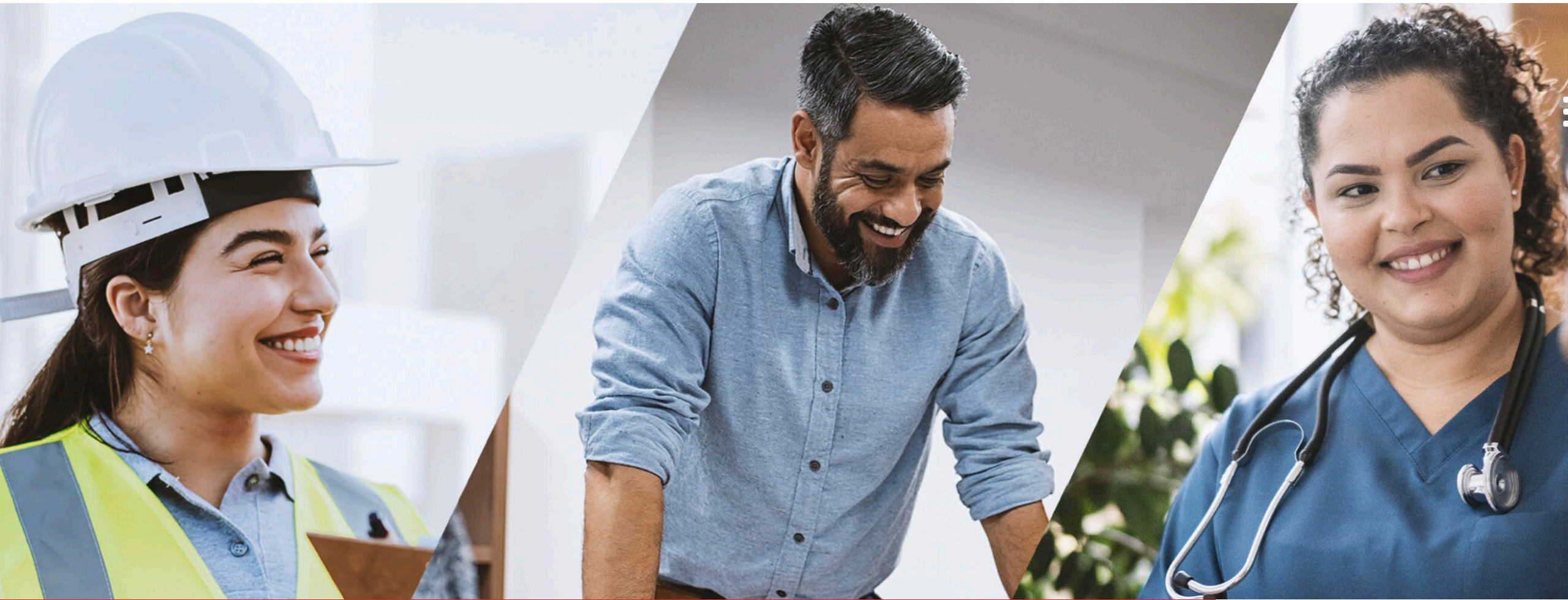
The Vision: True Collaboration

Collaboration is a Strategy, Not a Location.

- 
- 
- 
- 
- **Shared Vision:** All partners agree on a common definition of success for the customer.
 - **Integrated Services:** A single, streamlined process for the customer.
 - **Blended & Braided Funding:** Using multiple funding sources to support one unified plan.
 - **Shared Data & Outcomes:** We measure our collective success, not just our individual program metrics.

Strategies Across The State

- Job Fairs for Specific Populations
- Reverse Job Fairs
- Public Awareness Campaigns
- Visible and Accessible Information
- Cross-Program Staff Training
- Unified Employer Engagement



The Power of Partnership: How WIOA Programs Work Together

Foundations of Collaboration



Co-Enrollment
Strategies



Referral Systems



Partner Collaborations

Success Stories

- Foster Youth Collaborations
- Lead by example
- Community Impact Internship
- Rural Support
- Project SEARCH



Success Stories





LAUNCH YOUR CAREER WITH REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE!

Are you a recent grad or college senior (16-24)? Kick-start your career with hands-on, paid work experience.

- Apply your education in real-world settings
- Boost your resume with in-demand skills
- Build confidence and leadership
- Connect with industry pros & mentors
- Get on-the-job training
- Stand out to future employers
- Potential for full-time job offers
- Based off availability of funding

Bridge the gap between college and career—start now!

Contact:
nextforce@borderplexjobs.com

For more information scan the QR code



Slots are limited



A proud partner of the **americanjobcenter** network

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Relay Texas: 711 (Voice) or 1-800-735-2989 (TTY). Igualdad de oportunidades de Empleo/Programas. Equipo auxiliar y servicios de apoyo están disponibles para personas con discapacidad al ser requeridos. Relay Texas: 711 (Voz) o 1-800-735-2989 (TTY). Funded by all or in part of, the Department of Labor/ETA WIOA Formula Grants and Wagner-Peyser; the Department of Health and Human Services TANF and Child Care Development Fund; and the Food and Nutrition Service SNAP Employment & Training.

Challenges & Lessons



Communication Gaps



Solutions Focused



Data Sharing

Together, We Build Pathways to Opportunity



Partnership in Action



Aligning Efforts, Amplifying Impact

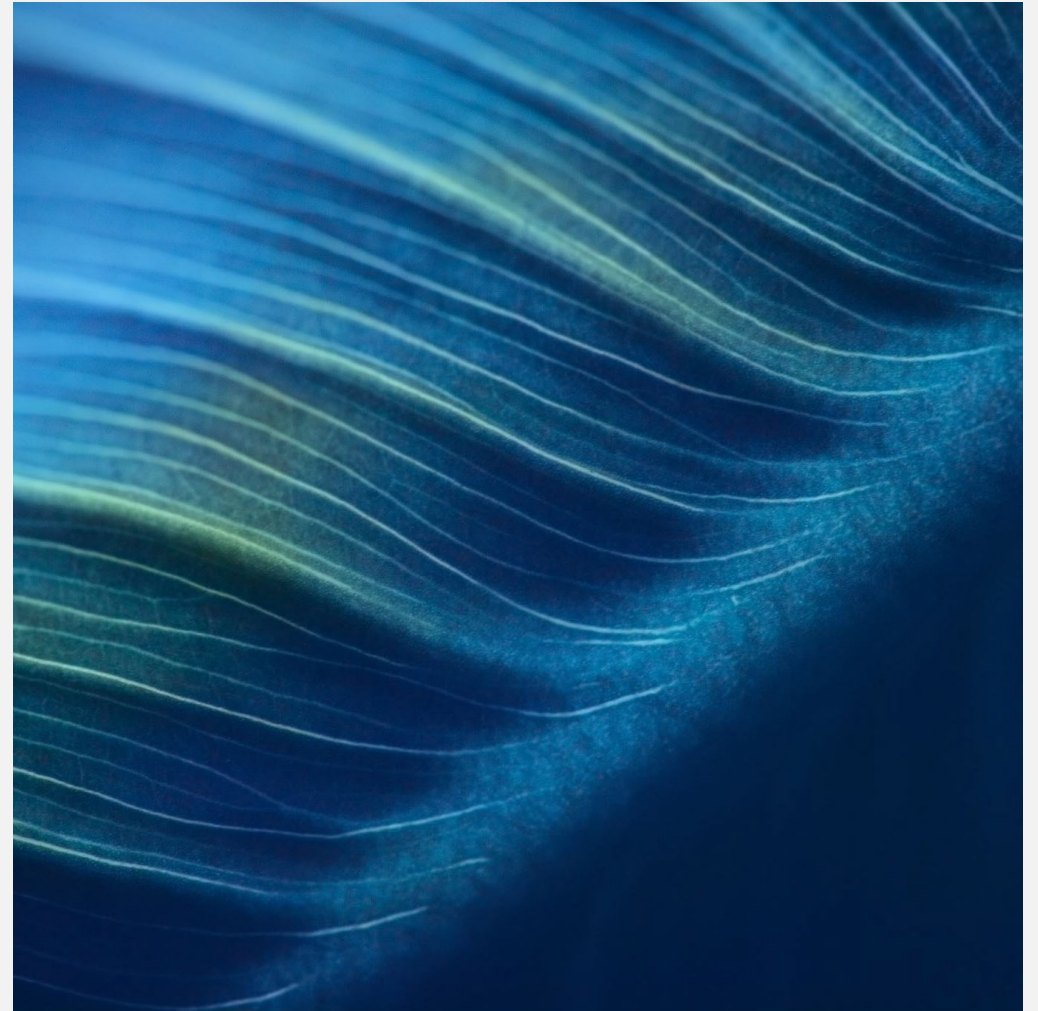
Connect with

Dezeree Fraga – Innovation
Development Manager,

dezeree.fraga@borderplexjobs.com

Bertha Torres- Vocational
Rehabilitation Supervisor

bertha.torres@twc.texas.gov



Your Role as a VR Leader

- **Champion the Vision:** Constantly communicate the "why" to your staff, partners, and stakeholders.
- **Empower Your Team:** Give your staff the permission, time, and training to collaborate. Remove internal barriers.
- **Build the Relationships:** Your personal relationships with other WIOA leaders are the glue that holds this together.
- **Model the Behavior:** Ask questions like, "Have we brought in our other WIOA partners on this case?" in your staff meetings.
- **Celebrate the Wins:** Acknowledge and reward collaborative efforts, no matter how small.

Questions

