

A Tale of Two Cities **Fact Sheet**

The current landscape:

- 1/3 of the adults in Philadelphia who can be working are not working and not looking for work.
- One in five 16 to 24 year olds in Philadelphia are not going to school and not working.
- No adult education system exists in Philadelphia that works to increase skill and educational attainment levels and facilitate access of adults to high demand jobs and postsecondary training.
- The local investment Philadelphia makes for workforce development and adult education is only 2% of the money spent. Mostly federal money (71%) and state money (26%) fund these programs.
- There are 400,000 adults in the labor force who would greatly benefit from educational and skill increases such as reading, writing and math classes.
- Philadelphia has a low level of literacy, which includes reading, writing and math, among its adult population. In our city, 2/3 of our adults are considered low literate and do not possess basic skills.
- Philadelphia is 92nd out of the 100 largest cities in the percentage of residents with college degrees. 25% of Philadelphia's population has less than a high school diploma.

Philadelphia's potential future:

- If Philadelphia raises its educational level to match the state's attainment: \$1.8 billion via increased wage base; 27,000 disconnected workers in the labor force; 32,000 more employed; and 5,200 fewer unemployed.
- In order to match the state's educational attainment level, Philadelphia would need to increase its population with Associate's degrees by 43% (16,000 people) and its population with Bachelor's degrees by 41% (34,300 people).

Why is this important?

- 70% of new jobs, especially those that pay a family sustaining wage, require a postsecondary degree.
- By 2010, the demand for degrees is expected to be a 31% increase for Associate's degrees and 22% for Bachelor's degrees.
- Those with a college degree earn \$1 million more in lifetime earnings than those without a degree.
- A person in Philadelphia that didn't graduate high school only makes \$22,000 a year. A person with an Associate's degree makes \$30,000 a year and a Master's degree will bring in \$40,000 a year.
- One year of post-secondary education translates to an increase in earnings of 18% for women and 14% for men.
- Expected annual earnings are 50% higher for women who received an Associate's degree and 23% higher for men who do the same.
- Salaries climb 89% for women and 60% for men when they receive their Bachelor's degree.