

W.E. UPJOHN INSTITUTE FOR EMPLOYMENT RESEARCH

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W.E. Upjohn Institute receives \$360,000 Strada Education Network grant to study workforce effects of college scholarship programs

Four 'College Promise' communities part of effort to reveal long-term effect of free college programs on local employment and workforce outcomes

KALAMAZOO, Mich.— The W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research today announced it received a \$360,000 grant from Strada Education Network to study the workforce outcomes of place-based college scholarship, or "College Promise," programs. The Institute brings an additional \$70,000 to the project, totaling \$430,000 over the two-year research period. Collaborating with four promise communities, the Institute will address the critical question of how College Promise scholarships affect recipients' employment, earnings and debt, along with decisions about where to locate after graduation.

This research ties into Strada Education Network's mission to strengthen education-to-employment pathways so all students can achieve "completion with a purpose"—a more purposeful path into and through college and on to rewarding careers and successful lives. Similarly, Promise programs aim to move students through higher education and into productive employment through early awareness, the creation of a college-going culture, and scholarships. Research has shown that Promise programs can spur improvements in the K-12 setting and boost college enrollment and completion. This project will examine how Promise scholarship recipients fare once they enter the workforce.

The Upjohn Institute will study the Kalamazoo Promise and collaborate with researchers from:

- The University of Arkansas studying the El Dorado Promise;
- The University of Pittsburgh studying the Pittsburgh Promise; and
- The University of Tennessee studying Knox Achieves, the forerunner of the Tennessee Promise.

The Campaign for Free College Tuition will help disseminate research results in 2018-19.

The Upjohn Institute is at the forefront of studying the Promise model, beginning with rigorous research on the impact of the Kalamazoo Promise. As other locales have implemented place-based scholarships, the Institute has worked to connect researchers across communities, develop a framework for program comparisons, and generate collective knowledge about impact. The Institute is a leader in educating stakeholders and policymakers on the effects of Promise programs.

The W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization devoted to finding and promoting solutions to employment-related problems. Visit us at www.upjohn.org.