





# Don't Recreate the Wheel: Higher Ed & Workforce Data Partnerships

Meredith Fergus, Director of Research, MN Office of Higher Education

Meredith.Fergus@state.mn.us; 651-259-3963

## Started with Disparate State Processes

- The MN Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)
  - Requires ETPL training providers to submit data on all participants and completers
  - DEED produces summary reports for WIOA reporting
  - No data collection process in place for non-WIOA funded participants
- The Office of Higher Education (OHE)
  - Requires data for institutions participating in state financial aid on all participants and completers in degree- and non-degree credit programs
  - Requires summary data on program participants and completers for regulatory functions;
     OHE licenses and registers all private providers not covered by another state agency
- Public colleges and universities with ETPL programs
  - Required to submit data twice, once to OHE and once to DEED on the same individuals

## The Cross-Agency Model

#### **DEED**

- Requires data submission to OHE under it's ETPL Terms of Use agreement
- New providers are assigned an OHE provider/institution code and reported to OHE

#### OHE

- Assumed responsibility for data collection on all course and program participants and completers for programs required to submit data under WIOA or state higher education law (at no cost to DEED)
- Expanded data collection to include non-credit course and program providers
  - OHE requires each provider to sign a Data Sharing Agreement which sets out the terms of data sharing, details data definitions, and gives providers access to de-identified student-level data to help them evaluate the success of their own programs
- Collects and cleans data using existing technology and procedures
- Submits cleaned data to the Minnesota Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLEDS)
- OHE notifies DEED of providers closing their programs or providers at risk of closing

## Reporting Systems

#### **SLEDS**

- Matches student data from pre-K through the completion of postsecondary education and into the workforce in a single system
- Uses a matching algorithm based on SSN, birth date, and full name to link records across 7 state agencies
- Both DEED and OHE have access to individual-level data SLEDS for purposes of research and reporting; this is NOT a live system. Data lags 6-12 months.
  - Data is pushed to a reporting data mart that DEED staff can access for workforce reporting
  - OHE accesses summary data by provider on participation, completion, and employment outcomes
  - Summary data is available to providers for performance reporting and improvement
  - Summary data is shared with other state agencies who have licensing and regulatory authority
    of specialized training providers (e.g. commercial truck driving providers are licensed by the
    MN Dept of Public Safety)

### A Win-Win for All

- Used existing technology and staff minimal costs
- Leveraged collaborative policies and procedures created for SLEDS
- Ensured a continual working relationship between DEED and OHE on reporting, regulation, and performance
- Resolved differences in understanding about data and data privacy across higher education and workforce
- Better data for state policy
- Better data for providers to use to improve programs
- Better data for consumers