

**Preparing Young Americans for the
21st Century:
Lessons from Europe**

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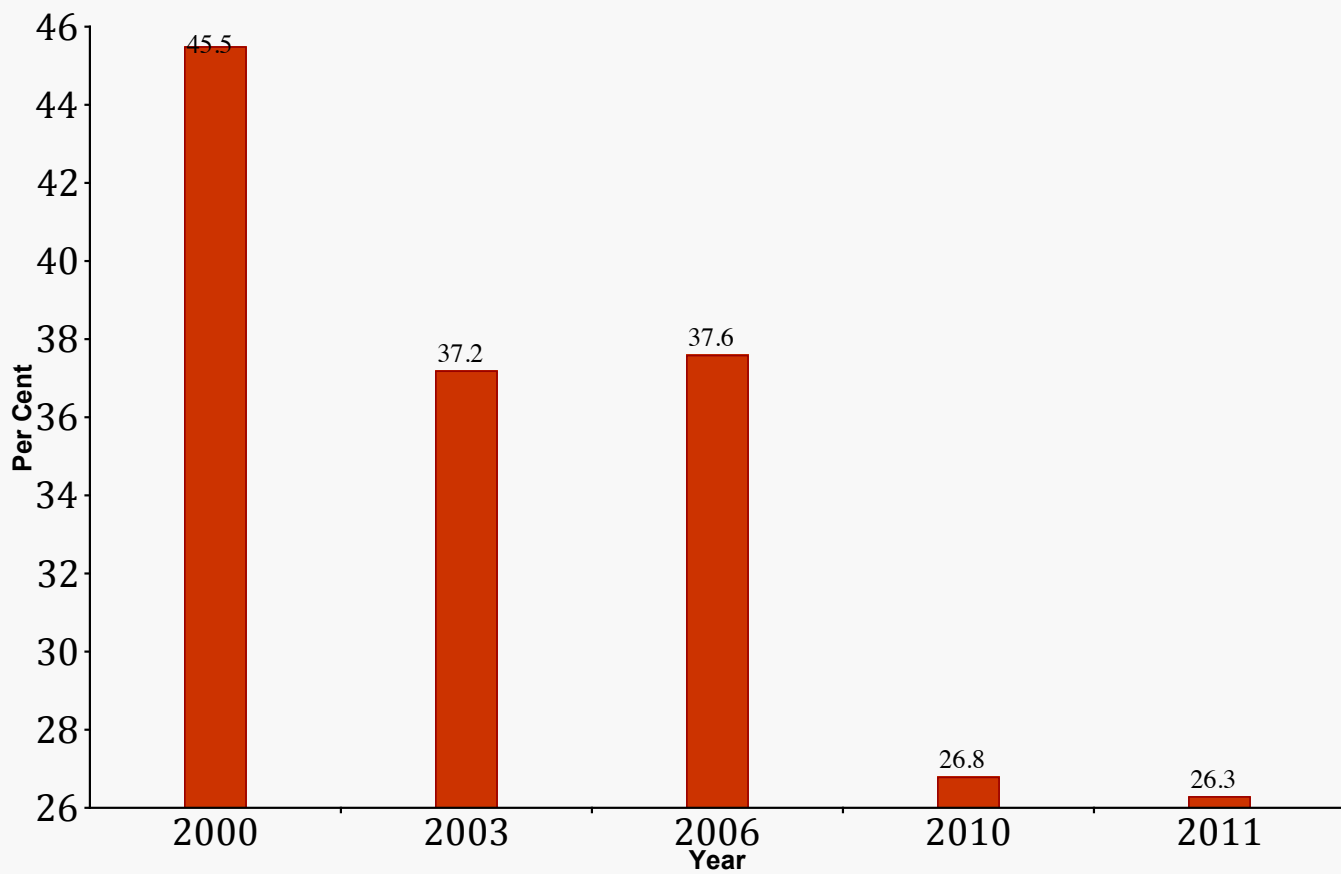
The Pathways Challenge

“EVERY FAMILY IN AMERICA”

- **Our existing system fails to prepare many young adults for success**
- **Education: We have lost our global leadership and millions dropout before earning a degree**
- **Employment: Staggering levels of teen and young adult (20-24) unemployment/underemployment**
- **The Skills Gap: even many educated youth are not equipped with the skills needed to succeed**

THE DANGER: A WASTED GENERATION

Trends in the Employment / Population Ratios of Teens, Selected Years, 2000 – 2011 (in %)



Why Are We Failing to Prepare Many Youth?

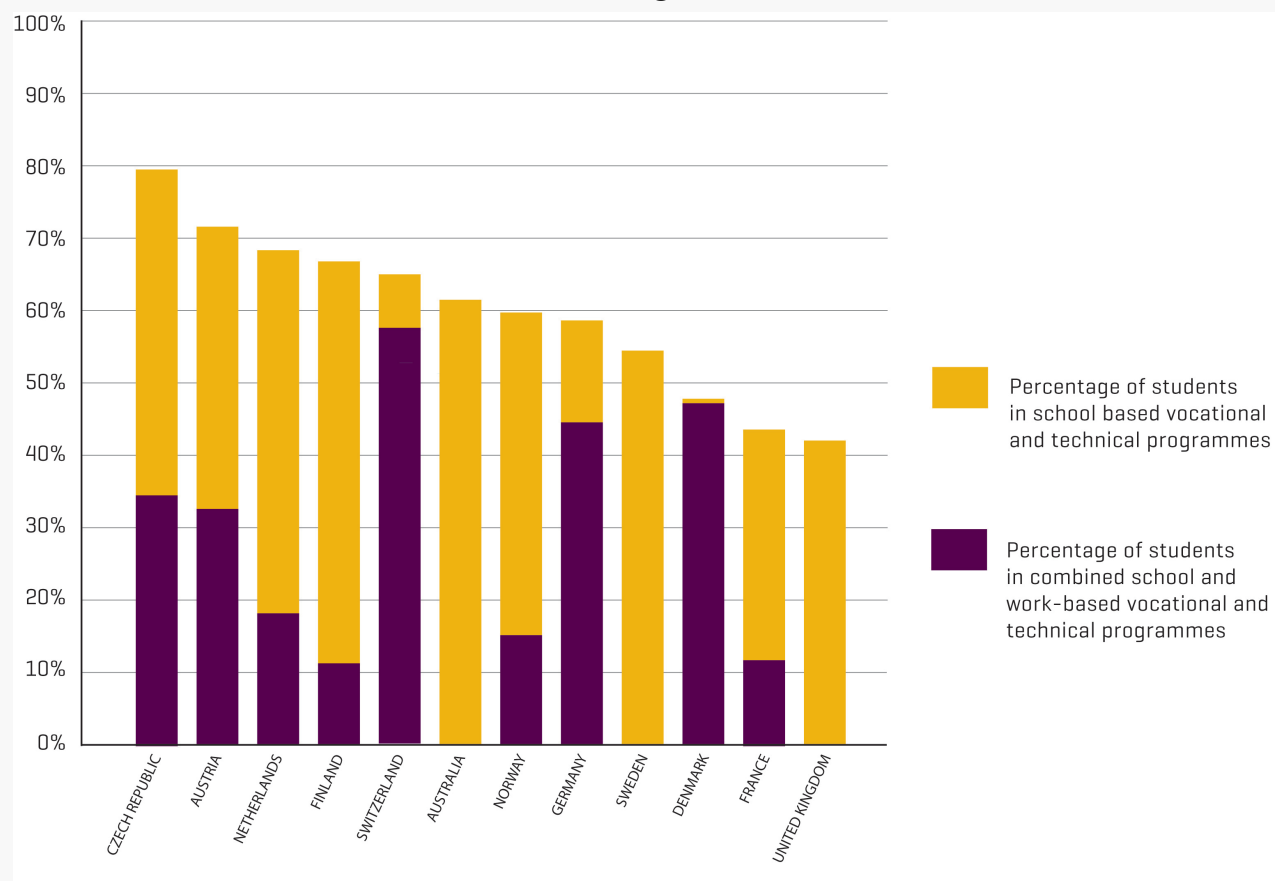
Our Approach Has Been Far Too Narrow

- **We've Oversold "One Road to Heaven:"
Convincing Parents/Students that four-year college is the only legitimate Pathway**
- **Yet this strategy hasn't produced the promised results in educational achievement/attainment**
- **And it doesn't work for most youth:**
 - ***Many go to college, but most don't graduate**
 - ***Student debt is out of control**
 - ***Even many graduates are underemployed**

Why Are Some Countries Surpassing the U.S.?

- They offer youth “multiple pathways to success,” notably high-quality VET
- And VET often produces better outcomes:
 - Pedagogical
 - Attainment
 - Career Guidance/Formation
 - Transition to the labor market/adulthood

In many European countries over half of upper secondary students are in vocational educational and training



Source: OECD (2008), Education at a Glance 2008, OECD indicators, Table C1.1, OECD, Paris.

Vision of the Global Pathways Institute

We are committed to creating an America in which all young people are prepared to lead productive and successful lives. We believe that providing young people with high-quality multiple pathways is the best way to help them discover and develop their potential and achieve economic independence. Achieving this vision will require creating a world-class pathways system in which industry collaborates with education to better define the skills needed to compete in the global economy, develop programs that will equip students for success, and provide ample opportunities for work-based learning. We believe this will help rebuild the middle class, increase social mobility, and promote the dignity of work, while strengthening American competitiveness and the U.S. economy.

The Pathways Prescription

- 1. Provide high-quality career guidance**
- 2. Offer all Young People High-Quality Multiple Pathways to Success**
- 3. Engage Business to Develop More Effective Career Pathways**
- 4. Expand Work-Based Learning**
- 5. Create Far More Robust Pathway Systems**

Creating World-Class CTE

MAJOR CHALLENGES:

- **Consistency:** We have some outstanding programs. But nationally, quality varies and many youth don't have access to good programs
- **The Cultural Barrier:** there is still a stigma surrounding CTE and many critical middle-class careers
- **Business Engagement:** the exception rather than the rule
- **Work-based Learning:** Can be highly-effective, but many youth don't have access

The Role of Research

- **In the U.S., many of these issues have been neglected by researchers**
- **Robust research is essential to developing a more vibrant Pathways system**
- **Given the today's global labor market, the U.S. should partner closely with researchers in other countries**

The Mission of the Institute

