

DATA POINTS

Research, Data, and Analysis Focused on Central Texas

Friday, September 29, 2017

This is a printer-friendly version of a post from CAPCOG's Data Points blog. You can find this post and others online at www.datapoints.org.

Workforce Development Training Opportunities in the Capital Area (Part 2)

This is the second post in a series discussing the work the Capital Area Economic Development District (CAEDD) has undertaken to examine workforce development training in the Capital Area. To read the first post, [click here](#).

The 60x30TX Plan

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) adopted a 15-year strategic plan in 2015, called "[The 60x30TX Higher Education Plan](#)." The overarching goal in the plan is that by 2030, at least 60 percent of Texans aged 25-34 will have a certificate or degree. Applying that goal to the Capital Area specifically, here's how the numbers stack up as of 2015.

Geography	Total Population Age 25-34	Certificate Attainment Estimate	Associate's Degree or Above Attainment	Share of Population in Attainment of Standard	Population Age 25-34 In Attainment	Population Age 25-34 Out of Attainment
Bastrop	8,948	11%	23%	34%	3,078	5,870
Blanco	844	12%	30%	42%	353	491
Burnet	4,378	10%	17%	27%	1,177	3,201
Caldwell	5,080	9%	19%	28%	1,416	3,664
Fayette	2,261	14%	28%	42%	947	1,314
Hays	24,244	9%	39%	49%	11,810	12,434
Lee	1,587	8%	27%	35%	563	1,024
Llano	1,300	8%	28%	36%	462	838
Travis	219,677	8%	53%	61%	133,154	86,523
Williamson	67,368	12%	45%	57%	38,575	28,793
CAPCOG	335,687	9%	48%	57%	191,535	144,152

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, JobsEQ, and CAPCOG Estimates

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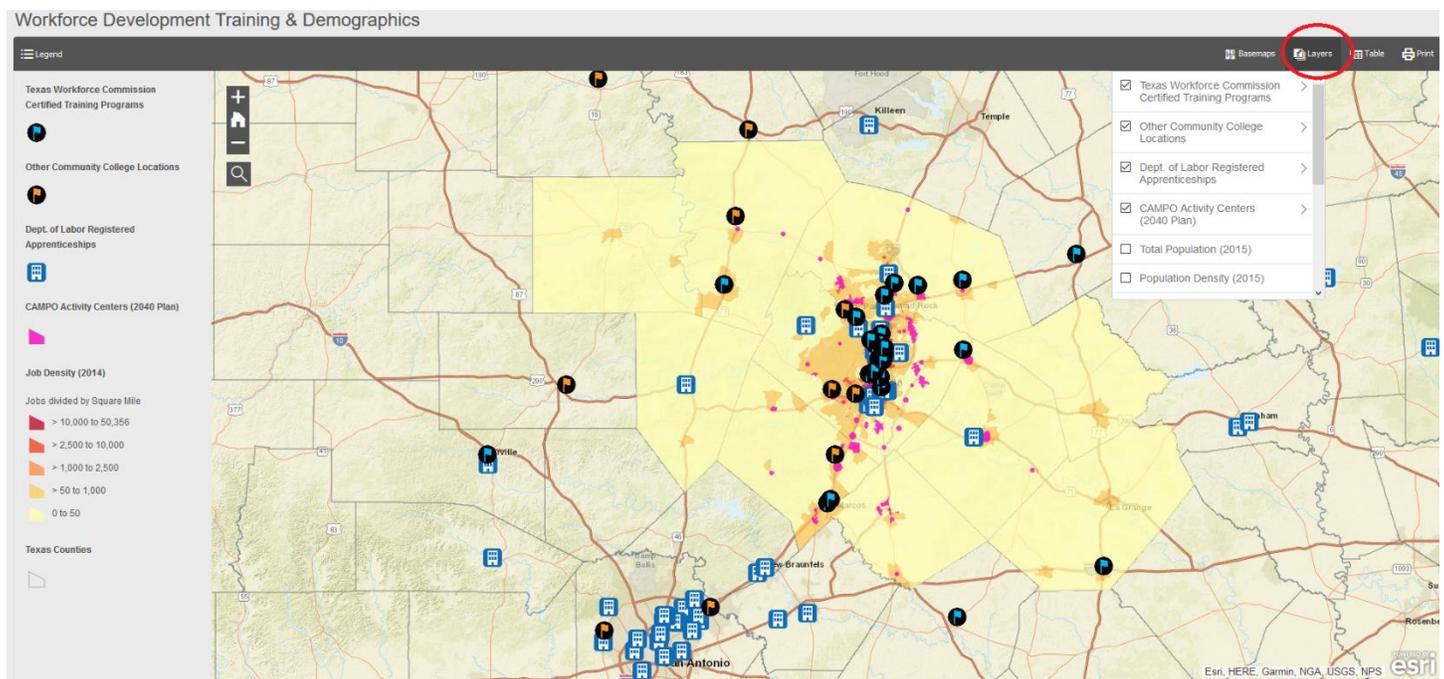
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Looking at that data, a number of salient points jump out, specifically:

- Significant variation exists across the region today - from 27% in attainment in Burnet County to 61% in attainment in Travis County
- Travis County already exceeds the THECB target, the only county in the region to do so currently. However, Travis County also has more people outside of attainment of the standard than the rest of the region combined
- Only about 10,000 people between the ages of 25 and 34 currently live outside the 5-county metro area; the 5-county metro area is Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties

Workforce Development Training and Demographics

Seeing the figures for population and educational attainment across the region got us (the CAEDD) thinking again about the geographical distribution of workforce development training providers across the region. So we mapped them again. Only this time, we included additional data layers for comparison, including population density, job density, educational attainment, and activity centers from the CAMPO 2040 plan. That interactive map is embedded below. Click on the options in the dark grey bar across the top to change viewing options (e.g., change visible layers, turn the legend on/off, etc.). For a larger map, [click here](#).



Some Takeaways from the Mapping

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- Workforce development training resources in the region are concentrated in our dense population centers, especially along the IH-35 corridor. This pattern creates gaps in access to training programs for our rural residents.
- Solving the access issues for rural residents may require more creative solutions. Alternative training models (e.g., remote classes, online education, etc.) may help expand access and bring more of the region closer to attainment of the 60x30TX goal, without targeting excessive resources outside population centers. Of course, reliable broadband service is also a complicating issue for online class provision in rural areas.
- Making information about training opportunities more accessible may strengthen demand for the existing workforce training opportunities that are already present throughout the region. There is not currently a single (or even a short list) of online resources where one can find comprehensive information about available workforce development resources in the Capital Area. More work to make information about classes, apprenticeships, supporting resources, and other programs easier to find may strengthen the effectiveness of the existing training provider system.