



# COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY 7

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State Representative Luther Olsen  
Wisconsin's 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District

- On Wisconsin Careers
- Work-Based Academies
- Business Flex
- ReSchool ReTool

Dear Senator Olsen:

Cooperative Educational Service Agency # 7 (CESA 7) is proposing, in partnership with the other 11 CESA's, a different approach to Work Force Development. This is where Education and Economic Forces collaborate to create *Eduonomy*. I hope you will consider this as an evolution of using our great educational institutions to create the dynamic learning and training programs that will not only fill Wisconsin's needs, but those of neighboring states. Eduonomy is an eclectic model with the best components of "Go Build Georgia", "Go Build Alabama", and "Florida Ready to Work". We have combined the premier aspects of these programs, along with our own original "Wisconsin" thought, and created our proposed system for your consideration.

The State of Wisconsin by all indications has a serious "skills gap". Others, including Dr. William C. Symonds, Director Pathways to Prosperity, in his national report *Pathways to Prosperity Project Meeting the Challenge of Preparing Young Americans for the 21st Century* preferred to call it a "middle skills gap". The gap for great paying middle class jobs and those trained ready to work in Wisconsin and across the United States is growing. He notes that today's workforce is not prepared for the kind of jobs that are open currently or in the next 8 years (2020). The current system of High School Graduation, to Two-Year or Four-Year Institutions, to great job or career is working for some, but not the masses. To think that using the same old system that is not creating currently accepted results is going to be the answer is the same as Einstein's famous quote, "Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." Sustainable workforce equilibrium minimizes the impact of structural unemployment on the regional economy.

I look forward to conversing with you in the near future concerning your thoughts and input on an Eduonomy Center.

Jeffrey P. Dickert, Agency Administration  
Cooperative Educational Service Agency #7



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CESA 7 Mission: *Providing collaborative leadership and service*