

## **“Workforce Readiness: Why it is Oklahoma’s Path for Economic Growth”**

Forty years ago, the United States was #1 in the world in high school graduation rates—today, the U.S. ranks 17<sup>th</sup>. Recent study, *The Ill-Prepared U.S. Workforce: Exploring the Challenges of Employer- Provided Workforce Readiness Training (July 2009)*, indicates that our emerging workforce is not prepared for the workplace.

With a declining available workforce over the next 20 years, every workforce development professional and business should have concerns. Why should that matter? This workshop explores what has happened in the United States during the last twenty years and what society must do to overcome a lack of skilled workers. The workshop objectives include:

- The cause and effect of deficient skills impact upon the workplace.
- Why education is key to ending poverty.
- How to improve workforce readiness in your community.
- How positive change impacts every area in our society.