



FACT SHEET • 2004

The Intermediary Network (INet) is a national association of leading education and workforce development organizations working in local communities to ensure the success of students. Network members connect schools, communities and workplace partners to improve education and build a future workforce. Members also convene local organizations doing similar work to maximize resources and effort. New Ways to Work serves as the facilitating partner for the network.

WHAT IS AN INTERMEDIARY?

Intermediaries are staffed organizations that connect schools and other youth-preparation organizations with workplaces and other community resources so that young people can combine learning with doing and become better prepared for postsecondary learning and careers.

THE INET APPROACH

- Emerged from the federally funded School-to-Work Intermediary Project as a self-sustaining membership organization committed to carry on with concentrated efforts to promote intermediary work;
- Currently made up of 27 highly functioning intermediary organizations;
- Facilitated by New Ways which helps member organizations maximize their impact within communities by supporting members to:
 - Convene local leadership;
 - Broker and/or provide services to workplace partners, educational institutions, young people and the youth-serving system;
 - Ensure the quality of local efforts; and
 - Promote policies to sustain successful practices.
- Members remain connected through participation in four workgroups: Data and Evaluation, Marketing and New Member Recruitment, Resources and Policy and Leadership;
- Participation in the annual Spring Institute and Leadership Forums allow members to share ideas and quality practices.

INET ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND IMPACTS

The Intermediary Network provides valuable connections for peers across the country, inspiring ideas, supporting innovation and defining quality practices. Leadership meetings, working committees and annual Institutes move members toward an increasingly ambitious vision for their work.

The Intermediary Network seeks to:

- Strengthen and expand the efforts of intermediaries across the country;
- Represent the collective voice of organizations and individuals performing intermediary functions; and
- Promote the importance of intermediary organizations and activities on the public policy agenda.

The 27 current members of the network are actively seeking to recruit others who perform intermediary functions in their communities. Potential members include national organizations, local intermediaries, youth councils, chambers of commerce, industry or business associations and local education agencies. The network is also crafting membership strategies to include options for national affiliates and partners, state School-to-Work directors and state-level intermediaries. Organizations that have emerged as a result of the transformation and evolution of local School-to-Work Partnerships are particularly encouraged to consider joining the network.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING:

"The Intermediary Network and its Institutes have catapulted our partnership into the future. Our participation in the network has helped us define ourselves as an effective intermediary and refine our strategies for linking business and education to benefit our students."

Susan Burge
MetroVision School-to-Career Partnership, New Orleans, LA

"The Intermediary Network has connected us to some of the strongest organizations in the country, providing valuable ideas, resources and new energy. The recognition that comes from being part of a group of national leaders in the field gives us credibility and validation on the local level."

David Rattray
UNITE-LA, Los Angeles, CA