

# Improving lives by connecting research and evaluation to practice



## OUR MESSAGE 2013

Hard work and commensurate results both characterized 2013 at **American Institutes for Research**. We tackled universal pre-K, college affordability, safe schools, healthcare implementation, workforce development, student assessments, and many other issues in the news, reconfirming for us the importance of applying evidence to some of America's biggest challenges.

Our talented and dedicated staff carried out far too many worthwhile projects to name all here. But a few exemplify why AIR continues to grow, evolve, and stand for quality work:

- A study showing that the return on investment for associate degrees can be high for both graduates and taxpayers.
- An evaluation of Zambia's cash-transfer program in Zambia finding dramatic benefits for poor children and their families—results reported throughout Africa and the world by more than 60 news organizations.
- Interviews with teens leading to questions about the toll harsh exclusionary punishment takes on them and about their prospects for staying in school.
- Continued work with states to develop a computer-adaptive online test-delivery system to assess students.
- Research concluding that only one in six adults at risk of developing “pre-diabetes” knows it.
- Work with the Federal Aviation Administration identifying and training the best air-traffic controller candidates.
- Analysis of state longitudinal administrative data to gauge education policies' impact on students and teachers.

Inside AIR, we worked hard in 2013 to connect research and evaluation to practice for such key audiences as policymakers, practitioners, and the public. We didn't just gather solid evidence to test for causality. We also sought ways to inform each perspective with the other. That's the way, we are absolutely convinced, to meld new ideas with experience and the wisdom that comes with it.



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