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Biden-Harris Infrastructure Program Would Create or Save 15 Million Jobs Over 10 Years, Georgetown University Report Says

Infrastructure program would increase GDP by as much as \$320 billion per year

(Washington, DC, March 29, 2021) A \$1.5 trillion infrastructure program from the Biden-Harris administration would be good medicine to nurse the economic wounds inflicted by the COVID-19 pandemic. It would create or save 15 million jobs over 10 years, according to a new report from the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce (CEW). *15 Million Infrastructure Jobs: An Economic Shot in the Arm to the COVID-19 Recession* finds that an infrastructure stimulus would increase the share of infrastructure jobs from 11% to 14% of all jobs in this country, temporarily reviving the blue-collar economy.

A majority of infrastructure jobs (75%) would be for workers with no more than a high school diploma and some non-degreed short-term postsecondary training, while the remaining quarter of infrastructure jobs would require an associate's degree or higher. Overall, an infrastructure program would create 8 million jobs for workers with a high school diploma or less, 4.8 million jobs for workers with more than a high school diploma but less than a bachelor's degree, and 2.25 million jobs for workers with bachelor's degrees and above.

Infrastructure jobs would be spread across the country. Blue states, which are more heavily populated, would gain 8.6 million jobs, and red states would gain 6.4 million jobs. There would be 2.7 million infrastructure jobs just in the seven closely contested states that were key to the outcome of the 2020 presidential election: Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. By region, the Southeast stands to gain the largest share of infrastructure jobs—nearly 3.4 million, or 22% of jobs—while the Rocky Mountain states would gain the smallest share, with 642,000 jobs.

“Creating jobs is just the first step,” lead report author and CEW Director Anthony P. Carnevale said. “Without a jobs training program, we won’t be able to prepare workers to fill them.”

Of the jobs created through the infrastructure program, 60% would require six months of training or less, and 40% would require more than six months of training. In general, the jobs that would require the highest level of educational attainment would require the most training. The postsecondary education system administers a majority of certificate, training, and noncredit programs that will be essential to train workers to take on these jobs. Expanding Pell Grant eligibility to include short-term occupational training programs, as proposed in the 2019 JOBS Act, could lead to significant increases in student enrollment and completion.

Apprenticeship programs could be one of the primary ways to train workers for infrastructure jobs. In 2020, about 42% of apprenticeship programs were already training workers for infrastructure-related

