Skills to Pay the Bills
How education and skills relate to employment outcomes

10.4 million American adults are unemployed.¹ People with less education and fewer skills face higher rates of unemployment.

How did employment change in the recent recession?
Workers with a high school degree or less bear the brunt of recession job losses.

Skills play a major role
Among those with only a high school degree, those with higher literacy skills are more likely to be employed.

Salary and job tenure correlate with reading, math, computer skills
The use of reading, math, and computer skills at work is associated with earning more and having more years of paid work.

PIAAC can help inform policies that will help our workforce gain the skills they need to be globally competitive.

¹ Dec. 2013

FIGURE 1

FIGURE 2

FIGURE 3

FIGURE 4

Sources: Figure 1: The Employment Situation – December 2013. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Table A-1. Figure 2: The College Advantage: Weathering the Economic Storm. Center on Education and the Workforce, Georgetown University. Table 1. Figures 3 and 4: National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC), 2012.