

January 2017



[Colleges Increasingly Use Contingent Faculty to Cut Costs](#)

Colleges are increasingly hiring lower-paid, part-time and limited-term contingent faculty, who in 2013 made up more than half of all instructors in higher education, finds an AIR study for the TIAA Institute. This trend has led to instructor salary and benefits cost reduction, but savings are modest when accounting for compensation for all types of college employees.



[Study Offers Promising Practices for Increasing Diversity Among First Responders](#)

A new U.S. Department of Labor study identifies promising practices first responder organizations can use to increase workforce diversity. The Coffey Consulting and AIR research team visited police and fire departments plus third-party training providers to document how they approached racial, ethnic and gender diversity in their practices.

[Support Services Can Lower Health Costs for Older Americans](#)

Community-based services and programs aiming to improve older Americans' social engagement and quality of life promote health at a fraction of the cost of medical interventions, according to two briefs by AIR's Center on Aging. These models suggest a win-win pathway to addressing soaring healthcare costs and improving the well-being of the nation's rapidly growing older population.

[Performance Feedback for Teachers and Principals at Times Unreliable](#)

Classroom observations did not reliably identify individual teachers' strengths and weaknesses, finds an AIR study for the U.S. Department of Education examining performance feedback for teachers and principals. The authors note that tools designed to measure many aspects of a teacher's practice or a principal's leadership do not reliably show which aspect they need most help with



Strengthening Family Involvement to Improve Outcomes for Children

How can family engagement enhance academic and mental health outcomes for children? [Lacy Wood](#) and Rebecca Ornelas discuss in this [video](#).

Quotable

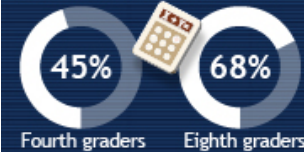
“Some states chronically overproduce teachers and send teachers outside state boundaries, and some states are much more desperate than others to hire teachers.”

— [Dan Goldhaber](#) talks to *Education Week* about what's missing from the discussion on teacher shortages.



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Students with Disabilities: Lacking basic math skills, 2015



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