Using the Swiss Apprenticeship Model to Open Up More Paths to the American Dream

Suzi LeVine

U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein (Ret.)

Overview of the Swiss Dual-Education System



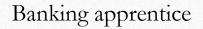


Keys to Success for the Swiss

A Swiss Apprenticeship doesn't define you for life, but it is designed to prepare you for life.



Sergio Ermotti
UBS CEO
\$2.6 Trillion under
management





Farming apprentice



Mechanic apprentice



Ursula RenoldFormer Education Secretary & Apprenticeship Researcher

Commercial apprentice

Businesses are Creators, Not Consumers of Talent

- Swiss businesses invest $\approx 1\%$ of GDP (CHF 5.8B/year)
 - On top of 18% effective corporate tax rate & NO tax incentives
- Human resources, not corporate social responsibility
- Shareholders understand the value of carrying apprenticeship costs

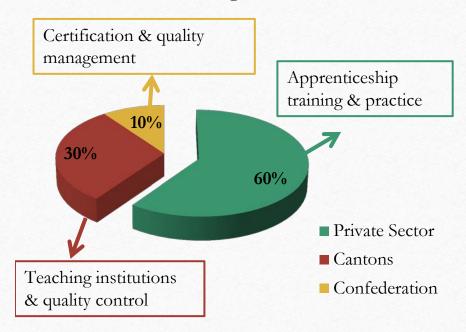




Businesses Do

- Collaborate through associations to grow the pie
- Define & evolve competencies & curriculum
- Pay their fair share

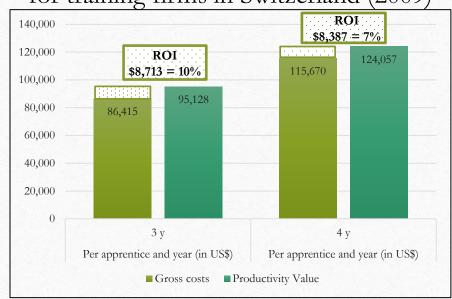
Funding breakout



Businesses Get

- A real ROI & real work
- Loyalty and pre-evaluation of staff AND employer
- Great skilled workers & life entrepreneurs
- Local talent

Average cost and benefit per apprentice for training firms in Switzerland (2009)

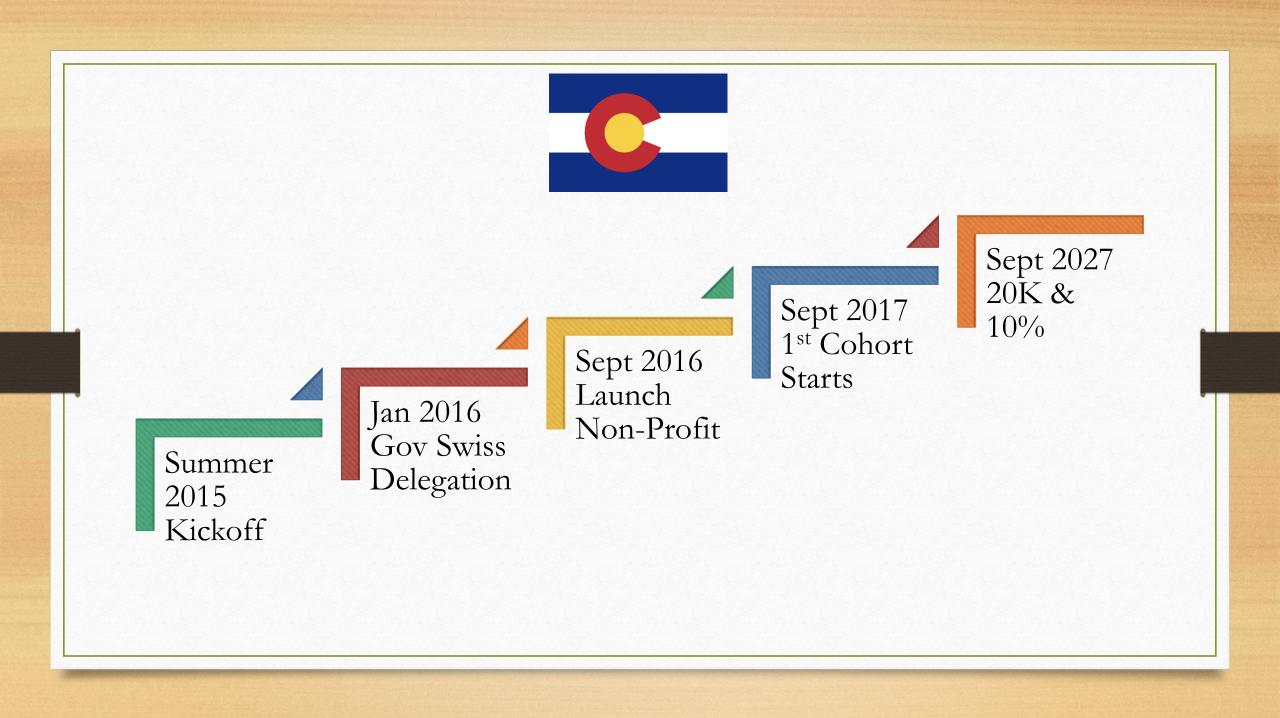


Adapting the Swiss Model to the United States

Swiss-US Agreements







The Stars are Aligning in the US: Citizens

1

\$1.3 trillion in college debt across 44 million borrowers

2

Only 30% of all Americans graduate from a 4-year University 3

4.4% overall unemployment, 9.6% youth unemployment

4

Slow wage growth

The Stars are Aligning in the US: Businesses

1

More than 6 million jobs going unfilled for lack of skills 2

Silver tsunami hitting industries from aerospace to insurance 3

Increased questioning of our "degree" vs. a "skills" approach

4

Education needing to keep pace with innovation

Big Cultural Shifts

Consumers

-

Creators

Stigma



Status

Degrees



Skills

Dead-end



Permeability

Programs



Systems











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