Workforce Development Team
July 7, 2:00 -4:00 pm
Northern Illinois University
Center for Governmental Studies Conference Room, Monat Building

Attendees: Diana Robinson (CGS), Joanne Kantner (Kish), Katherine Rogalsk (Harper), Jennifer Foster (ICCB), Jill Hlavacek (Naperville 203 CUSD), Renee Renken (WDB#5), Rima Roy (CGS), Jamie Craven, (Rochelle THSD), Travis McGuire (Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD), Ne’Keisha Stephany (Waubonsee), Lesa Norris (Waubonsee), Sherrie Taylor (CGS), Brian Richard (CGS), Lisa Jones (Dept of Comm)

Notes
1. Important Steps in Aligning Education with Local Workforce Demand
   • Connections to WIOA
     o Renee Renken reviewed the process local WDB Boards used to write the local plans. State WIOA personnel are reviewing the plans so they are not available for review at this time.
     o All local groups working on education and workforce connections are urged to connect with their local WDBs since there was extensive research, data reviews and employer input in the local plans.
     o Most local teams did not include high schools but many Regional Superintendents were included on the Board. The plans target out of school youth, as prioritized under WIOA.
   • Self Study/Discussion questions regarding workforce data uses in educational planning was reviewed. Discussions focused on starting with the WIOA work and then reviewing other data based on specific geography or needs. The usefulness of commuting data was discussed extensively. After revisions based on feedback, the document will be available on the P-20 Network website: [http://www.niu.edu/p20network/workgroups/workforce/index.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/p20network/workgroups/workforce/index.shtml)
   • Collecting Models of Best Practice – CGS will prepare one-pager documents that review the three main models of best practice:
     o Apprenticeships – Efforts to expand high quality apprenticeships beyond the traditional construction trades has brought increased attention to the opportunities that apprenticeships would have in IT, hospitality or other sectors.
     o Quality Career Pathways – Ed Systems Center is working with the Chicagoland Workforce Funders Alliance to adopt criteria for high quality career pathways. WIOA is insisting a common definition across programs for career pathways.
     o Talent Pipeline Management – US Chamber of Commerce is ramping up the employer role in local education and training. Business and industry are creating teams who apply supply chain management principles to educational pipelines. The businesses are designating preferred training providers for their employees based on the quality standards that the students meet and then telling all other education and training providers to also meet these standards.
   • Impact of HB 5729 and Best Practices for Work Based Learning Opportunities
A quick review of the HB 5729 resulted in a request for a presentation at a future meeting. Current information is found here http://www.niu.edu/p20network/_pdfs/work-groups/workforce/HB%205729%20Enrolled%20Summary.pdf

2. Career Pathway Documents- updated after the Focus Groups to include:
   - More career-interest information on the front page
   - More course recommendations on the back page (not requirements)
   - Adding work based learning opportunity information and industry credentials earned

Discussion focused on degree programs vs entry level positions. At this time there is no list of statewide approved “high quality credentials” being used in the 60 X 2025 goal so the network will continue to focus on the degree pathways but the revised documents will have industry credentials earned as a student progresses through to the degree. This will show those entry level credentials that can be stacked. Also, these documents are models, so local communities have the flexibility to build pathways to other locally-needed careers that may or may not result in a degree.

3. CGS staff are researching the two additional priorities and they will be addressed in the August meeting
   - Which sub populations are going into various sectors?
   - What influences student decisions in school/career?

4. Next Steps
   - Update the WFD P-20 website with more WIOA – regional plans when available and local WDB contact information – Amy Jo
   - Continue development of Self study/discussion guide based on feedback - CGS
   - One-pagers on the models for best practices – CGS
   - Arrange HB 5729 presentation for next meeting – Amy Jo

Meeting materials
Documents related to this topic are posted (or will be posted) online at www.niu.edu/p20network. Click on the Work Groups tab and then on the Workforce Development Work Group under Meetings and Materials. Additional materials are found on the Resources tab under Career Pathways. Feel free to send links to other documents that you recommend for this group to Amy Jo Clemens (ajclemens@niu.edu).

Location and Parking
Monat Building is on 3rd Street in downtown Dekalb. Free parking is available in a variety of streets and parking lots downtown DeKalb

Always in Mind:
Goal: Coordinate the Regional P-20 Network’s workforce development activities with local, state, and national initiatives in order to more closely align academic offerings and student preparation with workplace needs.
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<th>2016 Objectives and Deliverables</th>
<th>Data Needs/Next Steps from May 23, 2016 Meeting</th>
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| **1.** Inventory existing training and tools around workforce data, analyze for gaps, and develop strategies for helping educators use available data to improve alignment with workforce needs. | a. Research influencers on career decision-making and whether these vary by different populations based on race/ethnicity, income, disability, language, and other factors.  
 b. Self Study Tool on Important Steps in Aligning Education with Local Workforce Demand.  
 c. Connect with Ed Systems Center on best practices in work-based learning programs. |
| **2.** Monitor legislative proposals for career pathways endorsements on high school diplomas | a. Ed Systems Center or other expert present on HB5729.  
 b. Collect models of best practice |
| **3.** Continue development and testing of student-centered pathways documents tied to regional needs. | a. Present on results of focus groups and review recommendations.  
 b. Apply to current models and create a template for use by P-20 Network |
| **4.** Crosswalk metrics, benchmarks, and reporting requirements for WIOA, 60 x 25 Network Illinois Pathways initiatives, and other relevant initiatives. | a. Invite one or more local workforce innovation board representatives to join the discussion on whether and how they’ve incorporated secondary and postsecondary education into their local planning efforts under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. |