

## Aligning Education to Careers Team Notes – December 16, 2010



**Team Goal: Working together throughout Carroll County to educate world-class citizens so that our young people and communities thrive.**

Attendance: Jen Collard, Leo Sullivan, Mary Welch, Bill Arnold, Carl Olsen, Cyndi Paulin

Next Meeting: Thursdays, January 13 and February 17 at 4:30 pm

- Jen provided some follow up information on KHS and Bill is finalizing the information he has from K.A. Brett.
- A role this team might take on is education about the reality of education for our kids.
  - What's going on (data about how our kids are doing).
  - What kids need to leave school with in order to be successful? What does the current climate (international competition for jobs) mean for our kids and how we prepare them?
- There isn't anything strongly standing out from the survey information gathered from the schools thus far.

### Discussion:

- Middle & High School Surveys - The goal from the survey was to:
  1. Find out if any schools are tracking students after they leave high school to see if they are successfully meeting their after graduation goals. (No one is tracking this overall and there are no requirements to do so. There is some tracking of kids from vocational programs.)
    - A question of whether anyone is tracking kids that are receiving scholarships and whether they are ultimately completing their education? Or, running out of money?
  2. Find out what goal-setting approaches schools are using. And, if any have been particularly helpful to students. (So far, nothing in particular is popping out.)
  3. Find out what innovative programs schools are trying and to see which of these are yielding good results. (Schools are involved with many different initiatives. Follow up questions to the schools is needed to determine if there are some that are yielding particularly strong results.)
  4. Get a sense of the current community involvement and opportunities to promote more involvement. (Still looking at this.)
  5. Continued discussion of barriers to volunteers – background checks and costs.
- Community involvement/education - The tone of the education discussion seems to be particularly negative during this most recent budget season. The economic climate is certainly one factor in this. The team observed that there is economic pressure to scale back offerings to students while at the same time there are growing external pressures that demand better educated young people. The team is concerned about this dynamic.
- Gaps between expectations at high schools and colleges - Team members are hearing that there are gaps between what is expected for competencies at the high school level

and what colleges are expecting from incoming students. One example is the difference between what the colleges expect for a level of competency in Algebra for incoming students and what they are leaving high school with is resulting in students having to take remedial classes upon entering local college programs. Finding out more about what this looks like and whether any changes could be made would be a great benefit to students.

- Student survey – revisited this discussion. At least two schools were willing to do the Gallup poll survey but it was too late for this year. There is the possibility of using the Gallup survey as a template and working with some students to modify it.
  - Ask Jay Connor what other communities elsewhere are doing regarding surveys or information gathering and whether they have tried something that is working well that might help this team.