

Aligning Education and Careers Meeting Notes

12 August 2010

Present: Leo Sullivan, Carl Olson, Ed Maduskuie, Bud Martin, Cyndi Paulin, Lori Lenart

Next meetings: September 16 and October 14 at 5:00 pm (Tri-County CAP Resource Center)

Homework: Finalize the school and business surveys with input from other team members. Staff will make the requested updates to surveys and send them out to the larger group.

The main focus of the team this month was to review the work Leo and David did in putting together survey questions to be asked of middle and high schools and of businesses.

1. Get data from existing databases before reaching out to the schools.
2. Make the questions positive as opposed to negative in nature.
3. Use the same questions for both middle and high schools.
4. Okay to use the word innovative because it would denote that the team does not want “pat” answers but information about new and existing programs that are being done in the school (that are working).
5. Add a question about the process for updating curriculum.
6. Team agreed with other additions suggested by the staff to the questionnaire.

Business survey notes:

1. Extended learning programs – want to use wording that is most easily understood by any given business owner - Cyndi will reach out to David & Mike for clarification on that term as requested.
2. “Barrier to entry level” – Ed suggested one barrier might be age because he can’t employ anyone under 17.
3. Add “how do businesses see schools preparing kids to work in their area?”
4. Team agreed with additions Cyndi made to the business survey.
5. Are there any other survey’s out there that we don’t have yet? A copy of a survey focusing on the skills businesses are looking for was done by the MWV Economic Council about 10 years ago and was shared with the group. The question was raised as to whether the group would want to repeat some of the questions to see if those skills have changed at all. The staff agreed to reach out to WEDCO, the Belknap Co. Economic Council and the Laconia Chamber of Commerce to see if other survey’s have already been done.

Student survey

It was unclear from the notes and last meeting how a student survey was going to be put together. A question came up about whether or not there is a student organization that would be willing to take it on.

Once the wording on the questions (school and business) is finalized (one more round of input from rest of team as well as Dan Kennedy), staff will put together a narrative and send it all out to team members so they can collect data. Narrative should include some information to introduce the caller to the person on the other side of the phone and an explanation of Carroll County United and how the data will be used. The data summary can be shared with all the participating schools if they’re interested in the information. Staff will also put together tool everyone can use to record the data (i.e. Survey Monkey). People have already volunteered to reach out to various schools.

Job growth projections

Cyndi reported back to the group with a handout on the top projected new jobs for NH and Carroll County and the education required for each job. The top one for Carroll County was food preparation and serving (230 students at Kennett signed up for culinary arts this year). The top one for the state was sales and related occupations. The U.S. Department of Labor projects 70% of the jobs created in the next decade will require education beyond high school, but less than 20% of them will require a four-year college degree. The NH and Carroll county job projections appear to align with that trend. The related salaries for each of the job categories is available on the NH Employment Security website.

Co-chairs

Cyndi passed out a description of a co-chair and what it would entail. It will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Other

- Leo mentioned the story link staff sent out to the group from a Billings, MT newspaper regarding the schools and community working together.
- Is there a way to get students hands-on experience in other areas other than the trades? Could they get a stipend for the work?
- Can Team 1 ask about tools for goal setting, community participation, and innovative programs on their survey to the elementary schools so there isn't two groups going and asking questions?