



Region 9 Works Council

MEETING NOTES

October 23, 2015, 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM

Held at NTN Driveshaft

Columbus, Indiana

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

2. Introduction of Council Members

Barry Parkhurst, Rebecca Reeves, Sue Smith, Chris Lowery, Steve Mackey, Harold Wilson, Jan Holm and Melissa Miller

3. Introduction of Guests

Elizabeth Lerch, Jennifer O'Shea, Professor Ryan Brewer and Charlene Hall

4. Approval of Minutes

Jan Holm motioned, Sue Smith seconded and minutes were approved.

5. IUPUC Seamless Pathways – Ryan Brewer

Jan Holm shared that the IUPUC Seamless Pathways initiative stemmed from an advisory council conversation. They invited Professor Ryan Brewer to share his perspective with that council and it was well received.

Professor Brewer will be looking at the skills gap (specifically in STEM fields) from two perspectives, financial and non-financial.

He shared a number of educational attainment statistics, including Indiana's low ranking for Hoosiers holding a baccalaureate degree. This is a big problem specifically in advanced manufacturing and skilled trades, which are a major driver of the economy in Indiana and especially in Region 9. The numbers show that lifetime earnings are much higher in these areas with training and/or a degree.

This presents an opportunity focus on our youth and help them make career decisions. It is important that we help them earlier on in their education. One option is to expand the Maverick Challenge to help more students understand opportunities in STEM related fields.

Chris Lowery shared with Professor Brewer that they have begun setting up manufacturing camps around the region for middle school kids and are looking to do something similar for the healthcare field. He also mentioned that this will be incorporated into the Skill UP grant that the region is pursuing.

Professor Brewer said that this is also an important conversation for everyone to have, even if they aren't interested in these industries, so that they understand and appreciate the importance of these trades. Steve Mackey agreed and the group discussed how this impacts the economics and morale of a community, especially since employment in these industries can be cyclical. Chris Lowery told the group that we are getting better at this by creating stackable credentials so that when there is a downturn folks can easily pursue more training/education to gain employment. Professor Brewer pointed out that this is the case across all industry and it's important to help all students understand these dynamics. Chris Lowery told the group that Ivy Tech in the Southeast region is working to identify the population of students that are most at risk in persisting and completing their education and will be stepping up to mentor these students. They also intend to ask community members to do the same thing.

Professor Brewer wrapped up his presentation by saying that increasing educational attainment in the region and state is a win-win as it will attract business and support the economy.

The group further discussed the cycle of unemployment and poverty in communities and how it could be broken. Everyone agreed that beyond the financial implications it is also important that we help young people understand what it means to be "middle class" and that careers can have meaning to them. We need to elevate the coolness factor of having a good work ethic and continue to perpetuate the notion that all jobs are good and important jobs.

Chris Lowery closed out the conversation saying that we have an opportunity here for engagement and it will be necessary to have an army of people to accomplish these goals.

6. Middle/High School Poster Update – Stephanie Weber
Stephanie Weber was not in attendance but Chris Lowery shared that the poster project is moving forward. Our employer partners have helped and there is now enough funding to print 2500 posters.

7. Career Choice Student Exercise Demonstration – Barry Parkhurst
Barry Parkhurst lead the group through an interactive exercise that he has used in high school classroom settings to demonstrate the implications of career choices.
He also showed a video that showcases what the workforce needs are today and into the future and the education required to fill those needs. Lastly, he takes the class through a PowerPoint covering the essentials of a resume and cover letter. He then plays a Family Feud game with the students to recap.
The group agreed that this is an excellent presentation and should be replicated throughout the region and could be adaptable for other sectors. They are going to explore how to share this approach and replicated it.

8. Updates by State and Regional Partners (DWD, Workforce Development Board, EcO15, AHEC)
There were no new updates.

9. Networks Next Steps
a. Educational Attainment
b. Manufacturing Sector
c. Health Care Sector
There were no new updates.

10. Other business
There was no new business.

11. Next Month's meeting
Our next meeting will be held Friday, November 20th 10:00am-12:00 noon at Honda Manufacturing of Indiana, 2755 N Michigan Ave., Greensburg. To join by phone please call (866) 244-8528. Pass code is 792624