



## **Region 9 Works Council**

### MEETING NOTES

November 20th, 2015, 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM

Held at Honda Mfg of Indiana

Greensburg, Indiana

- I. Call to Order  
Meeting was called to order by Jan Holm, who filled in for Chris Lowery
- II. Members & Guests in Attendance: Kurt Kegerreis (SE Workforce Board), Harold Wilson (Cummins), Brad Street (SE Career Center), Stephanie Weber (EcO/CEC), Charlene Hall (Columbus Regional Health), Jennifer O'Shea (DWD), Jan Holm (Batesville Tool & Die), Barry Parkhurst (NTN Driveshaft), Melissa Miller (Honda Mfg of Indiana) Cathy Metcalf (LIFT) and Lisa Deck (Indiana Chamber).
- III. Minutes from October meeting were approved.
- IV. Jennifer O'Shea with DWD had a few brief updates from the State. 1) Skill Up Indiana Grant: Forty-six letters of intent were received statewide and approximately 36-37 preliminary proposals have been submitted to date. Two were received from Region 9, the EcO15 grant and another from the trucking industry. The DWD is now working to set up initial calls with each of the proposals. 2) An FYI regarding the recent grant to the National Governors' commission. The grant, comprised of 6 separate grants, is for work & learns programs and opportunities across the state. The purpose of the grant is to take best practices for work to learn and scale them across the state.
- V. Kurt Kegerreis, Workforce Investment Board updates. The board is working to shift how they handle unemployment across the state, serving the regions with a potentially smaller staff but maintaining a broader footprint via alternative methods such call centers or a web based approach. With the economy changing and with lower unemployment, the focus shifts to helping employers find the workers they need. Preserving the face to face contact and becoming more innovative on where to "set up shop" is the challenge. One recent idea is to have the DWD come into schools and get in front of high school seniors soon to be entering the workforce.
- VI. Indiana Chamber update: The South Bend and Scottsburg area regions have asked the chamber to support them with career counseling. The support will come in the form of identifying best practices in work to learn and also in "soft skill" development. Chamber has also received a grant from Honda for a high school externship event. For the best alignment to current initiatives within R9, Lisa Deck with the Chamber will be

coordinating upcoming planning activities with Stephanie Weber, Angela Topper & Melissa Miller.

VII. Other items: Recent Work to Learn event held in Lebanon was attended by Harold Wilson (Cummins). STEM Symposium was attended by Melissa Miller (Honda) and Kathy Huffman (Madison Comm. Schools). Also, Gene Hack (C4) and Brad Street (SCC) mentioned the challenge they are having finding instructors for some of the technical courses. Kurt Kegerreis said that they will take this information back to the attainment network group.

VIII. Update from Network Guiding Teams:

Educational Attainment Network: Group is taking broad approach, reflecting on existing practices rather than reinventing programs. One effort is for the WIB to get in front of all high school students to share information of available opportunities and to also learn more about student interests. The network will also like to expand and add additional drop-out prevention programs in the area. Not in the prescriptive sense but with additional programs and co-founding with agreement set up for schools. Other potential areas are the Correctional facility in Madison and also an initiative focusing on the Latino population. The group has met 5-6 times.

Manufacturing Group Network: The meeting bringing together both educators and industry to share best practices within the region was held Nov 6 at Ivy Tech Batesville. Highlighted during the meeting were the following programs or initiatives: School to Work- Batesville area High School Co-op program, Adult Ed & Post Secondary Learning -Ivy Tech Automation & Robotics Technology degree program, and externships- C4 Skilled Trades Summer Teacher Externships. Attendees have the opportunity to designate which programs they would be interested in implementing at their school or in partnership with their company. From that input the decision was made to request dollars through the skill up grant in four areas: 1) Potential replication of Cub Manufacturing Learning model at other schools (Lawrenceburg & Seymour potential schools). 2) Externships for Skilled Trades & other teachers or counselors 3) Conexus internship model 4) potential Advance Automation & Technology programs for additional R9 school systems. The stakeholder meeting went well and was long overdue for manufacturing industry partners and local educators to connect and network.

Health Care Network: Jeff Hart & Beth Stone along with Charlene Hall from Columbus Regional have identified 4 or 5 ideas to incorporate into the skill up grant. One idea is to increase the utilization of the sim labs that were created as part of a previous Lilly grant. Also identified was to add a liaison to local high schools for Ivy Tech & IUPUC programs, giving the counselors knowledge and access to tests. They would also like to add an additional cohort for nursing. Moving forward the Healthcare network hopes to meet with local employers and analyze vacancies and project needs into 2020, identifying how both educators and local schools can work together for a positive outcome.

Overall the challenge for those putting together Region 9's grant proposal is to identify the best possible programs for recommendation in the grant, being ambitious and yet not appearing greedy. For all of the networks it appears that there are many good ideas and potential initiatives and projects with or without grant monies. The challenge will

be finalizing the proposed budgets, projecting potential impact, securing enrollments and confirming up front funding for the recommendations in the Skill Up reimbursement grant.

- IX. Our next meeting will be held Friday, Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:00-12:00 at Batesville Tool & Die. Jennifer will send out a meeting invite.