



## Region 1 Works Council

Meeting MINUTES

August 29, 2016

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. CT

Center for Workforce Innovations – Valparaiso

### I. Welcome and Call to Order

**Present:** Deb Howe, Michelle Meadows, Linda Woloshansky, Christine Hernandez, Audra Peterson, Jim Stradling, Gary Norgren, Kris Emaus, Debi Baughman, Bob Schacht

**Staff:** Sandy Alvarez, Barb Grimsgard – CWI/NWIWB  
Kathy Jaworski – DWD

### II. Approval of Meeting Minutes - Motion for approval by Linda Woloshansky. Seconded by Deb Howe. Unanimously approved.

### III. Work and Learn Grant

Barb and Sandy presented a summary of the recently received Work and Learn grant. Numerous questions were asked and ideas generated to clarify the definition of work and learn and which schools to focus on in arranging the tours of employer sites. Through this grant there will be:

- Facilitated discussions with education and program stakeholders
- Creation of an Asset Map of existing Work and Learn programs
- Surveys to gather basic information via email and 1-2 follow up phone calls
- Tours to engage with Employers
- 5 High School and 5 College Work and Learn Experiences
- Lessons learned will be incorporated into a Whitepaper to define what a high quality Work and Learn experience is.

Success will be defined as:

- Creation of a clear definition of work & learn for our region
- Understanding employer expectations for Work and Learn programs
- Generating employer interest in further Work and Learn opportunities
- Developing a model for liberal arts students to ultimately enter internships

### IV. Status of Work Ethics Certificate

At the last meeting, the council voted to send the Governor a letter indicating support for the current work ethics strategy and certificate in place in NWI requesting that he acknowledge, sign or issue a certificate similar to what is being recognized through the PRIDE program. In addition, the council asked if the NWIWB would also endorse such a letter. Kris reported that at the last NWIWB meeting the Board voted to support the letter as did the CWI board. The letter has been sent and we are waiting for acknowledgement.

### V. NWI Workforce Partnership

Kris gave an update on the work of the NWI Workforce Partnership which is the initiative in place among 7 regional groups focused on workforce, economic and community development. The group had another meeting, clarified the work to date and continued to talk about regional metrics and any strategies which they determined were needed in order to move the needle towards achieving the "big goal". The group indicated a need to further define our assets and the skills gap. The group also agreed to formally sharing the status with their respective boards and to meet again in 2-3 months.

VI. Indiana Sector Strategy Summit

The state sector strategy summit is on October 19-20 and everyone is encouraged to register and attend.

VII. Review of Action plan

The Council reviewed the action plan to see the tasks that were done and identify some of the items that need attention. Focus was given to college and career readiness with a discussion of some of the best practices that are occurring including a project in TriCreek School System. This program intentionally focuses on work ethics, career exploration, and getting ready for employment during study hall. Deb Howe is working with the state to support that curriculum as a foundational program because it is a best practice model. In addition it was determined through discussion that the weak link in these awareness activities is the parents. Members asked if it was appropriate for the Workforce Board to focus on parents and how we can do a more intentional job to help parents see all the opportunities in NWI for employment if students have the right skill sets.

The Works Council will request the 3 innovative curriculum grant recipients to give presentations to the Council at the next meeting.

VIII. Meeting concluded at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Woloshansky  
Works Council Member