



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 12, 2014

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### **Local event prompts interest and awareness of Career and Technical Education (CTE)**

*(Northwest Indiana)* On Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, READY NWI hosted an Update on Career Pathways event at Valparaiso University. The event was sponsored by the Region 1 Works Council and attracted 150 guests, including secondary and post-secondary teachers, counselors, and administrators, as well as employers and economic developers.

Linda Woloshansky, President and CEO of the Center of Workforce Innovations, the organizer of the event, welcomed the audience and introduced Kris Emaus, Chair of the Region 1 Works Council and member of the Northwest Indiana Workforce Board (NWIWB), who shared information on work being done by the Council on both a regional and state level. Emaus discussed objectives and important aspects in transforming Indiana's workforce through the Center of Career and Education Innovation's strategic plan entitled, Align, Engage, Advance.

Keynote speaker and nationally recognized college and career readiness expert and director of Indiana Career & Technical Education, Matt Fleck, kept his presentation interactive and information packed. Fleck talked about the importance of exposing kids to the opportunities available through their local Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, while sharing studies and statistics that kept the audience engaged and provided for a positive level of high energy for the remainder of the program. Fleck's presentation was followed by an insightful panel discussion with CTE students and parents of CTE students, a networking dinner with guest speaker Anthony Sindone-Continuing Lecturer of Economics at Purdue University North Central, and closing with an information packed panel discussion with employers who work closely and seek out CTE program students for their workforce.

"With the many high demand jobs that continue to surface and grow, more emphasis will need to be placed on CTE in order to fill those positions in our region," said Woloshansky.

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For more information on the Works Council and the Align, Engage, and Advance strategy visit <http://www.in.gov/ceci/index.htm>. For information about READY NWI, visit [www.readynwi.com](http://www.readynwi.com) or contact Roy Vanderford at 219-462-2940, ext. 35.