



Region 5 Works Council

MEETING AGENDA

March 2, 2016

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Ivy Tech Community College
Illinois Fall Creek Center
2535 N. Capitol Ave. Room 521
Indianapolis, IN 46208**

(Parking Available immediately north of the building)

**Teleconference Information:
877-422-1931; code 9510108315**

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions
Attendees: Nicole Elam, David Tucker, Scott Bess, Bill Turner, John Newby, Patrick Biggerstaff, Ron Hoke, Tracey Everett, Ben Carter, Randy Decker, Steve Rogers, Kristen Scott, Remo Mezzetta, Tom Welsenbach, David Shane and David Dimmett
Staff: Marie Mackintosh, Jennifer O’Shea, Natalie Wenzler and Dan Devers
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. You Can. Go Back. – Chris Enstrom and Liz Walker, Commission for Higher Education

Chris Enstrom provided a brief overview of the Commissioner for Higher Education and shared more information about the Commission’s You Can. Go Back. campaign. This initiative targets people that started their degree in higher education but didn’t complete. Liz Walker provided more specifics about the audience and the barriers that they face. This initiative is meant to help this audience navigate the process and make the right decision for them and their family. She also discussed the supportive and financial services available. An overview of the website that helps people determine the what (what programs are available and what are the learning options) and the where (what institutions would be a good fit for their needs). To date, more than 1600 people have utilized the website. Chris discussed the benefit of this to employers such as a more highly education workforce. He looked to the council for feedback on how best to engage employers. He also discussed how employers could support those employees that are looking to return and complete. The question was posed about the intentionality of those institutions that are participating. It was noted that more proprietary institutions should be included because they really work with this demographic. Dave Tucker mentioned that, to date, Vincennes advisors have received more than 120 inquiries about participating.

There was conversation about some of the obstacles these students face in going back, including financial holds, low grades and transferable credits. The commission continues to discuss alternatives with institutions.

Overall, there is a lot of momentum around this campaign.

Chris will send out a survey to capture other feedback and ideas.

- IV. P.O.W.E.R. Pathway and Certification – Kristen Scott, Lebanon Community Schools
Kristen Scott provided an overview of Lebanon’s P.O.W.E.R. Pathway and Certification program. This particular program focuses on employability skills. Students take a sequence of courses and, if complete with 75% or better, they receive the certification piece. They then go through a process in their senior year in which they have to demonstrate academic readiness, earn an OSHA certification, participate in a work based learning opportunity and complete community service. They have worked with local employers to develop this program and are working on incentives with employers such as a guaranteed interview for certificate holders. Bill Turner asked if postsecondary places any value on a certification like this. John Newby shared that there are pieces such as the OSHA certification that align with Ivy Tech coursework. Dave Tucker agreed that a student with this certification and background would likely persist in post-secondary. It was also mentioned that it’s important to help counselors understand the importance of programs like this.
- V. Skill UP – Marie Mackintosh, Department of Workforce Development
Marie Mackintosh provided an overview of the Skill UP process and the list of central Indiana award recipients. There were \$30 million in requests and we had \$11 million to give out. There was a cross agency review team that focused on outcomes/ROI, collaborations and partnerships, implementation scalability (of successful programs), measurability and sustainability. Bill Turner discussed Allison Transmission’s involvement in the Junior Achievement initiative and mentioned the JOBSPARK career fair for 8th graders in Marion County that is set to take place on September 29th at the Fairgrounds. He encouraged council members to volunteer! Ben Carter shared that IPS will be sending all 8th graders to this. He also shared that their students are participating in Catapult. It was also mentioned that IPS counselors gather information from events (such as the upcoming JOBSPARK event) to follow-up with students and help them make decisions. It was mentioned that there should be community outreach to promote this.
- VI. Other Business
Walker Career Center and Indiana First are hosting a FIRST Robotics Competition at Warren Central High School on Saturday, March 19th from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. There was an invitation extended to the Works Council from PLTW to attend their annual summit from March 20th – 23rd. Tracey Everett provided an update on the Conexus internship program. They are still accepting applications for this summer. There are 340 requests from employers and 250 students that have applied. There was a lot of good feedback about this program. Dave suggested that the membership think about future agenda items and what the Works Council can focus on. He asked the group to forward suggestions to him, Marie or Jennifer. He also asked for recommendations for membership additions.
- VII. Adjourn
The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.