

P-16 Steering Committee

July 24, 2012 Meeting Notes

2-4 p.m., Erie 1 BOCES

Attendance: Please see attached sign in sheet.

The purpose of this meeting was to review input from the P-16 Consortium's June 20th meeting on suggestions for the next Summit, and firm up those plans.

Date: The week of April 8, 2013 (specifically April 9, 10 or 11) is targeted for the next Summit. Jane will contact Don Ogilvie (DONE) and ask his assistance in putting into motion a request to NYS Education Commissioner John King to serve as keynote. Location details to be worked out when we know what date the keynote will be available. Location will likely be local, due to concerns about travel time and cost.

General Discussion:

Defining our Issue: "plugging the leaks" is exactly what we hope to do, but does not exactly ring in terms of inspiration. Maybe "Revitalizing WNY Learning and Jobs" ... we'll work on that.

For now, the working theme is "Fixing the Leaks." Basic framework of day is to have a keynote and lunch speaker, articulate the gaps, articulate that the issue is solveable. Define the issue and the problem so people feel the need to be there.

This appears to be an issue along a continuum ... higher education is facing significant numbers of students requiring remedial courses, the majority of which never earn a degree, business/industrial community feels Higher Ed grads not prepared. How well are local HS grads prepared? College remediation statistics are based on national data.

Can we get local data so we know exactly what we're dealing with? K-12 is preparing students in accordance with designated curriculum and expectations, yet not meeting college's expectations of what a graduate should know, think and do. Assessments and rankings measuring K-12 generally show high success rates, which leads districts to believe there is not a problem within their own schools. Yet colleges report high levels of students from suburban districts needing remediation. Can higher ed let us know specifically what and where the problems are? How can we get that kind of data, without violating FERPA? It would help districts address defined gaps and populations, rather than national statistics that may or may not reflect what is happening in various districts, and anecdotal evidence that they may not believe applies to their district.

Initial plan was a full day. Maybe wrap up after lunch though, and leave afternoon for work groups/Task Forces to meet? Or wrap up day with a general panel discussion ... we can solicit questions beforehand. Then generate next steps. Goal is to motivate people to be involved, it's a Call to Action.

Initial plan was to have people register according to their defined area of interest/concern, which we would align with the task force charges. Then, in breakouts, the Task Forces could report in detail on their planning templates, and generate more input and discussion.

Is this a good time to bring in businesses? This is the “audience” we are ultimately preparing students for. It would be a natural evolution of our work at that point.

Ask King, in keynote, to elaborate on: if students are not prepared, it is a loss of human capital ... and what that means to business and industry, and to a child’s future ... that is a moral imperative.

Can we ask business/industry to provide a demo of a hands on skill, then ask how and where in the school curriculum would a student be able to learn something like that (or be prepared for that kind of learning in the work environment). Keynote could set the tone, then demos so participants see it, not just hear people talking about it.

Education is about changing WNY.

We have Big Ideas! And Big Questions!

Outcome

Outline for the Summit:

A.M. Keynote

3 Task Forces report out

Problem Forum: facilitated conversation at tables (with trained scribes)

Lunch (with speakers? Deb Glick/HE and C. Nolan/P12?)

Panel

Generate Next Steps

Survey all participants

NOTES:

- Steve has been approved for a \$700,000 grant from the Oishei Foundation to work on this issue over the next few years. Some of that can fund work study students to work on this project.
- Steve’s grant funding can pay for the Summit (\$10,000 line). He can do online registration for the Summit.
- The Aug. 6 Consortium Meeting will be rescheduled. The next few weeks will be used for Lynn and Steve to meet with the Task Force chairs on their planning documents. Two are now posted at Steve’s website.

- Patti's group has a Partnerships Resource Directory document that can be given to all participants.