

NORTHWEST WISCONSIN CONSORTIUM ON TECH PREP/SCHOOL TO WORK

October 26, 2011

WITC Rice Lake Conference Center

9:00 – 3:00 p.m.

MEMBERS **attended**

Mike Bark	Connie Erickson	Barb Landstrom	Bob Meyer
Sara Benedict	Paul Gilbertson	Jim Lee	Ron Nevin
Dick Best	Brad Gingras	Ramona Lockwood	Christy Roshell
Sher Brodt	Nancy Graese	Ruth Ludwig	Andrea Schullo
Roger Burger	Melisa Hansen	Candy Lund	Diane Vertin
	Joe Huftel	Dede Maki	Jerry Walters
Danielle Carley	Ken Kasinski	Glenn Martin	Aaron Staut

Welcome and Introductions

- Updates on Perkins/Tech Prep—new Statewide name, Career Prep
- Review of the Career Prep budget
- Salaries came out of the Perkins budget for this year as well as cuts in offerings
- Facilitating the Future will run for one week June 2012
- Perkins dollars will still be available in 2012 at **\$4,000** less than this year's - **\$50,955**

Articulation information

In 2010-2011, WITC partnered with **16** high schools to offer **138** courses for college credit and had agreements with **38** high schools for advanced standing credit in **190** courses.

For the current 2011-2012 school year, WITC is partnering with **20** high schools to offer **150** courses for college credit and has agreements with **31** high schools for advanced standing in **203** courses. Note: the number of transcribed credit offerings are not final until April of 2012.

Andrea distributed a report of high school graduates that earned college credit in high school. This report is available to schools for their use.

Career Exploration—the dialogue needs to happen with students about what careers are available and what they may want to pursue. Pathway development

- huge issue of getting students to think about careers and choices
- Discussions of having more students entering careers in the high demand areas of nursing, machine tool and welding
- Would be very helpful for students entering post-high technical education to have stronger skills in basic electricity and components and welding basics
- Could we hold off-site offerings/classes in entry-level welding? Right now, cost is a deterrent
- Math skills in our diploma programs are sometimes an issue to employers
- Aaron discussed WITC contact with high school students. He indicated that between counselors and Career Specialists, we do a great job of connecting with students.

- The WITC Career Specialists are in close contact with schools and spend time in the schools. They have a good idea of the pulse of what employers want and what kids need to do to get ready for post-high education
- It seems that financial issues are the main reason for Attrition of students at WITC
- Online learning has shown great growth and affords flexibility in learning to students
- Many law makers believe that the Tech colleges need to continue to be a vital part of preparing our workforce
- RISE initiative—efforts are being made in putting certificates together with the help of Business and Industry that are ladder steps to careers
- Medical field—there are entry level positions in phlebotomy. A person could come into the workplace knowing a skill and then could build onto that through further education. These entry-level workers do have issues with communication skills, however.
- Disciplinary Literacy, CESA—Core—reading for understanding, written communication; Teaching writing, reading throughout the curriculum.
- DPI has been developing opportunities for students to earn science, math and other general studies credits in CTE courses. Students would be able to learn English standards through a variety of classes not just the typical English classes.
- We need to prepare students for technical education and moving into Career and Technical positions, not only 4-year college preparation
- Approach learning through problem-based platform
- Having a mentor/colleague sitting in your HS classrooms=valuable feedback for instructors.

HS Relations Report—good reference tool--cost share with Marketing Dept. for printing.

Would like to see more participation in Advanced Standing and Transcribed Credit throughout our district. E-mail volume is such so that US mail may be the best method to invite schools to WITC-Articulation Days.

School district school boards – send the information on articulation to Administrators, asking that they share this with their school boards. **The boards** need to hear this information to make articulation a priority. Also include job market information/trends.

The UW is getting involved with articulated credits in the general studies area—reduced cost but still have a student fee involved. UW-Whitewater taking the lead in this.

Parents Need to hear career prep and job outlook information. Dollars for education costs comparison information.

- It is really the parent’s responsibility in raising their children to talk career preparedness but we can give or present parents with the tools to work with their kids on career options.
- Work/career mindset needs to develop at a young age. Teens often act like they don’t care. We may give them too many opportunities “not” to fail—

How to target our high school aged students?

- Hands-on, face-to-face, Show kids what they can do if you have this type of training—science, computers, etc.
- Need to reach the kids cause the kids are not coming to us. . .bring along a grad of their school that is doing cool stuff, to talk about careers.

Career Clusters experience is supposed to exist in the schools. Should be having a careers class minimally and actually should thread career information throughout the child's education. Takes time to move along this path.

Volunteers and PTOs can be career ambassadors—these groups could be very helpful if they have the tools. Many schools do not have a position of a K-12 career pathway contact person. Need info for both parents and students. Utilizing Successful graduates to address students/parents is a good approach.

Career Prep Activities held this past spring and summer

Summer Youth Academies

***First Responder training** was held for the first time this past summer at Rice Lake and New Richmond. We had offered Certified Nursing Assistant training in previous summers.

***Manufacturing Academy**—was held at the New Richmond campus focusing on weatherization and welding. A small shed was built for a hands-on weatherization project

Hope to continue the youth academies this summer. The planning committee will meet to decide on offerings.

Of the students who are involved in a youth academy—70 Percent go on to some type of college

Counselor Externship—2 at Rice Lake; 1 at New Richmond—develop partnerships and learn all about the WITC programs; participants are often surprised at the rigor in our programs. This is always a great relationship builder with local counselors.

Sept 27—local counselor workshop—hosted in conjunction with UW-Barron County—15 to 17 area counselors attended. Split their time between Barron County campus in the morning and WITC in the afternoon. This activity is held each year in some fashion at each campus. Student Services/Career Specialists are involved.

Spring Counselor Workshop: attendance is declining—very busy spring schedules--A survey will be sent out to counselors to find out if there is a better time to meet and find out what else they would like to see in a workshop

Educator Externships—nine participated (both K-12 & WITC participants); spend a week in business or industry. Requirement is to interview at least 3 people; turn in a report and to incorporate this learning into a lesson plan. Very good for relationship building.

We hope to continue the externships in the future.

Facilitating the Future

Viewed Hayward HS Business Teacher, Julie Fischer's, YouTube video, Facilitating the Future 2011. Thanks, Julie!

Nancy Graese showed FTF attendance charts. CESA 11 had the most attendees; increase in CESA 12 participants. WITC RL had the most WITC attendees. One UW-Stout student attended. One third of all attendees were WITC participants.

All Facilitating the Future participants develop an action plan; nearly all learning communities have homework to do after class. Lynda Mattes—moved from Tech to Solidworks class to enhance her instruction in her math classes.

Good participation and many returning participants—20 to 30 percent were new attendees. Of this number, many were new teachers.

Cohort—3 year process for Master's Degree; 11 have just completed. Viterbo was FtFs partner and is more flexible than the UWs.

Leadership Team took a close look at the budget to see what we can do for this year. (The Credit income from 2010-2011 was \$22,000 but will not count on this income as we plan for next summer.)

June 18, 19, 20, 21, of 2012 are the dates that have been set for Facilitating the Future 2012. Grant expenditures run until June 30th.

Premise is to help teachers improve their vocation. Tool is the Action Plan.

To earn the \$200 stipend, an action plan needs to be developed in the summer and implemented in the fall.

What do we need to do to make Facilitating the Future a go? FTF leadership ideas thus far: Decrease the payment to design team members (Reference to Gitchee academy). National Council Economics Education—awarded a grant.

Drop the Visions Conference due to cost. The break even cost identified at 10 per Learning Community. Registration cost was \$300 for 8 days; will likely become \$295 for 4 days. The desire is to keep this alive—working together and relationship building. Certification offerings.

One idea for FTF:

Discussion of some type of math offering—math within your careers—applied math. Learning Community of math and content teachers—working together—identify all of the places in the content area where math was involved—make the curriculum more relevant. Cross curriculum lesson planning for reinforcement. Sounds like this is the purpose for the (PLC's) professional learning community within school districts

Facilitating the Future—Comprehensive Guidance for Counselors—The numbers have declined in this at Facilitating the Future. Some schools began the process. Curriculum has to be in

order for this to work. Schools wish they had more time to work on this. Program based. We should not give up on this

Engineering the Future—Nancy attended a session in Boston. Problem-based learning. Ann Wallisch also attended. Discussions with Connie Erickson—on STEM—weave this throughout the K-12 system. (Project Lead the Way—already exists). ETF is all about careers—math, science, problem-solving, decision making. Nancy Graese and Ann Wallisch would become trainers for Engineering is Elementary. Will need to find pilot school to do the lessons in for 4-5 days. There are kits available for purchase by schools. Help School Districts put this together for grades 9 and 10. **Want to have a STEM learning community at FTF.** Jim Lee has 12 kits in the CESA resource inventory available for use. Mahtomedi, MN—has this in their elementary school (they have retired engineers living in their community).

Discussions with Kathy Maas via IP about the recent High School Relations meeting at WITC and what various groups and individuals are doing in regards to recruitment. **Ideas:**

- Have WITC staff speak at various district inservices. Get the message out about the cost effectiveness and career readiness of a WITC education.
- Possibly send tri-fold brochure out about costs and outcome of technical education in place of the transcripts that went to homes of transcribed credit students.
- Administering the Accuplacer in the high schools—research this idea
- Student tracker—look at this information—good to see where students are going to after high school when pursuing higher education
- Return on investment—What a good buy technical education is--develop a marketing tool that showcases this.
- Speaking in person out in the district at school in-services.
- Selling point--Alternative marketing—marketing a 2 year degree in a whole different way. Show the Career Laddering into a 4 year degree and then the work world.

Agency Updates

CESA 11: Keep developing STEM, continue on with career pieces.

CESA 12: Jim Lee—Barb is scheduled to come up to work with Program of Study, Tech Ed group on Career Clusters along with curriculum staff. Changing over to Google Apps and Google Forms. Annual Ed in service, 240 people with districts—CTE and FCS—crosswalk credit process. Continue to focus on (11 district) roll out of common core standards.

NWCEP—funding issues ongoing. Main charge is to oversee the job centers. See more grant funding for operations. Training and skills development—training on all levels to supply necessary workers for the workforce. 4 northern counties are hosting discovery days—focus on Health Care on Careers not housed in a standard health facility. On the job training program—adult clients. Working with WITC on a placement program—initial stage of development.

Workforce Resource: Job Centers in 9 counties of West Central—WI; more funding issues that would affect programs for adults. Grant funds for youth programs. Academy planning for Barron County. Career Exploration fair, “Career Ventures” held in Eau Claire. YA set up at district schools. YA is not as widespread as it once was. Have many Year-round activities—youth coming

in every month to participate in career research at the job centers. We are the Bridge to the world of work.

Amery: First graduating class that completed Personal Finance class. Presented the transcribed Credit information to the school board and they were very excited about it. Big News: New Careers class—every student that graduates from Amery will take a Careers class in all of the CTE career areas. Job shadowing, Wisc Careers, Portfolios, etc.

Superior High School: Many initiatives going right now. Crosswalk, seamless curriculum 10 years ago. PBIS; reading across the curriculum. Every other week—work with a specialist. Teachers teaching teachers how to use technology in the classroom. Student newspaper, Spartan, recently won a national award. Hard work but very rewarding. Youth Options in the CNA and Welding at WITC. November 8, will attend career day at WITC.

Grantsburg High School: Women of Tomorrow, student group from Grantsburg High School are here today for activities and tours.

WITC-Rice Lake: good information today—communications—we do a lot of communication with high school staff. Information went from hard copy binders to flash drive to a link on the Web site. This is a handy tool for the HS counselors as they are working with students and parents. Aaron does face to face meetings at the Ladysmith branch also.




Hudson: 4 areas—advisories, small learning communities, project based learning
Advisories—schedule has changed so that students stay with advisor all 4 years. Advisory piece for Sophomores will be Careers. Core courses and elective curriculum. Components of transitions—connections both at the school and out in the community for entering freshman and exiting seniors. Positioned very well in CTE. Very exciting. Significant change--Every Thursday start an hour later—all instructors meet to focus on what they can do to improve student learning. Health Care – capstone in Family & Consumer.

Marshfield Clinic: Thanks for all of the discussions today. New happenings in (YA)—Youth Apprenticeship—Pharmaceutical Tech, Medical Assistant opening up other experiences.

WITC: Students can now develop a Locker on the Careers Web site.
Statewide, most schools are working on utilization of this site. Wicareerpathways.org.
New Medical class and lab facility in the WITC-RL building.
New Richmond—new lease on “Community Commons” old Middle School in New Richmond--
Distance Learning—NWECS network. —Nov 17th WITC Career Day at New Richmond. Human Services, new program this year at New Richmond. Perkins Grant DUE EARLY February 2012.

St. Croix Falls—working on installing technology so that students/staff can bring in their own laptop for use in the school facilities. Professional Learning Community. Doing Career Pathways in the middle school.

Future Consortium Meeting Dates and locations:

-  Feb 8th, 2012, 9:00 -12:00 p.m. via IP video
-  April 25, 2012, on Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., location T.B.A.
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