Hayward Community & Business Leaders Forum Notes
November 5, 2008

Attendance - 13
Bd Mbr: Hal Helwig
Admin: Bob Meyer, John Will, Kim Olson, Chris Landstrom, Lynn Fitch
WITC Staff
Community & Business Leaders

- Hal Helwig introduced Bob Meyer.
- The open community forum was informal.
- Input was given by community members in response to the following questions:
  1. What are you willing to share about your business or community plans for the future (that might impact WITC’s planning)?
  2. What educational, training, or recruitment issues do you face in accomplishing those plans?
  3. In your view, how can WITC best serve your business/community?

  a. Consider offering a health care profession boot camp.
  b. There is a shortage of home health care workers, nurses, pharmacy, radiology, and physical therapy.
  c. Continue and strengthen the partnership with Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Community College (LCO), expanding beyond the Hayward location.
  d. Target parents to build an awareness of the opportunities that are available at WITC and Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Community College (LCO). Parents that haven’t gone to college don’t know what to tell their kids. Note: There is an annual Parent Expo being planned for February 14. This is sponsored by the Chamber.
  e. We need to keep kids local and in the state.
  f. Community needs – as the population gets older, WITC is a great place for them to get some computer skills, etc. Retraining of retirees is important.
  g. Offer learning experiences closer to home.
  h. Standardize and synchronize the WITC preceptor form, making it the same at all WITC campuses.
  i. Communicate with experiential learning partners (e.g. health care facility) more consistent and user friendly.
  j. Concept/Idea: Higher Learning Center (Satellite Learning Center) - provide access to multiple educational institutions. Collaboration is needed between other higher eds in the area to share higher costs and equipment. Students would take classes from all Higher Eds in one building. UW-Stout would also be brought in. The building would be a place for students to study and use the computers for their studies.
  k. Spread out clinical/experiential learning scheduling so local facilities are not overburdened. Note: Students want to get their clinical in their home town.
  l. NWCEP partnership helps fund tuition for Certified Nursing Assistant students and displaced workers, using different funding streams.
  m. Sustainability – are businesses interested? The new nursing home in Hayward will be more environmentally friendly or “green”. Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Community College (LCO) offers a Renewable Energy Certificate and the SCI 105 Introduction to Renewable Energy (4 credit) course.
  n. Telemark Education Foundation is sponsoring a Renewable Energy Expo (is not associated with the Telemark Resort).
  o. There is a need for any courses related to health care and coding courses (COTA, OTA, Physical Therapy Assistants) and certifications for positions.
  p. Offer more classes over ITV/IPV (Nursing, Accounting, generals and electives for the two-year programs) as students would rather go to Hayward instead of Rice Lake. It was noted that right now WITC is restricted to run full programs at the branch campuses. It was also noted that WITC Hayward currently offers 10 complete certificates (as does WITC Ladysmith).
q. Cultural Diversity Awareness – Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Community College (LCO) specific.

r. Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA’s) are interested in LPN (WITC offers a one-year LPN track in the ADN program)

s. Some students don’t have a computer at home and need to use our computers.