Northwest Wisconsin Educators for Regional Development
Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremony

AGENDA

• Welcome/Introductions
• Mission-Purpose-Focus
• Guest Speaker – Linda Bartelt, Executive Director, NEW ERA

Northeast Wisconsin Educational Resource Alliance (NEW ERA) is an alliance of 13 higher education colleges in northeast Wisconsin collaborating on initiatives that enhance the quality of life and economic vitality of the region. Linda Bartelt has a professional background in business and served in various executive leadership roles at Kimberly Clark Corporation, Oshkosh Corporation’s Pierce Manufacturing and at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Center for Community Partnerships. Linda will provide an overview of NEW ERA and its national distinction in regional collaboration of higher education institutions.

• Official Document Signing

  Cooperative Educational Service Agency 12 – James Lee for Kenneth Kasinski, Administrator
  Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College – Raymond Burns, Interim President
  Northcentral Technical College – Dr. Lori Weyers, President
  Northland College – Dr. Michael Miller, President
  University of Wisconsin Colleges and University of Wisconsin-Extension – Dr. Ray Cross, Chancellor
  University of Wisconsin-Superior – Dr. Renee Wachter, Chancellor
  Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College – Dr. Robert Meyer, President

• Panel Q & A
• Closing Remarks

Purpose
To continue a conversation among northwest Wisconsin educators who are involved in strategic initiatives and collaborations for educational attainment and economic development.

Vision
The Northwest Wisconsin Educators for Regional Development (NorthWERD) promotes innovation and takes action to provide more seamless opportunities for educational attainment and career preparation. By creating connections and eliminating barriers amongst the NorthWERD partners, we will build educational bridges to the future for the students, citizens, communities and regional economy of greater northwest Wisconsin.

Initial Focus Areas

Responding to Regional Needs: Collaboratively assess the broad educational and economic development needs of the region and partner to meet those needs as appropriate.

Economic Development Enhancement: Assess existing research and engage in additional research as needed to understand the future educational needs and economic opportunities of the region.

Career Pathways to Success: Develop educational pathways that are responsive to existing and emerging career pathways and that span two or more of the NorthWERD partners. Take action to create, strengthen and communicate these educational pathways to students, parents and the public.
Northwest Wisconsin educators form NorthWERD group

**What:** Eight institutions in Northwestern Wisconsin are joining together to form a regional consortium of educational partners called Northwest Wisconsin Educators for Regional Development or NorthWERD. The group has been developed to respond to the needs of regional developers and students, as well as identify regional economic trends and opportunities for graduates as they choose a career path.

**Who:** NorthWERD comprises representatives from public, private and tribal higher learning institutions and agencies, including Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College campuses, UW-Barron County, UW Colleges, UW-Extension, UW-Superior, Lac Courte Oreilles Community College, Northcentral Technical College, C.E.S.A. 12 and Northland College.

**Why:** NorthWERD has outlined four focus areas that will help participating institutions be more responsive to economic development needs in order to promote healthier, sustainable communities. The consortium of educators will focus on responding to regional educational and economic development needs, assess existing research and gather additional data to pinpoint economic opportunities, provide career pathways to success and offer academic advising and assessment for parents and students.

**Signing Members of the Consortium:**
- Cooperative Educational Service Agency 12, Kenneth Kasinski, Administrator
- Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College, Ray Burns, Interim President
- Northland College, Michael Miller, President
- Northcentral Technical College, Dr. Lori Weyers, President
- University of Wisconsin Colleges and University of Wisconsin-Extension, Ray Cross, Chancellor
- University of Wisconsin-Superior, Renee Wachter, Chancellor
- Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College, Bob Meyer, President

**Contact:** Organizations and individuals interested in discussing opportunities to work with NorthWERD can contact the group’s president Bob Meyer, President, Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College
Phone: 715.468.2815 Ext. 2227 Cell: 715.651.9696
Fax: 715.468.2599 e-mail: Bob.Meyer@WITC.edu