

Workforce and Education group

Minutes, Feb 5, 2024

Present: Wendy Morse, Amanda Richardson, Shelly Adriance, Bill Colvin, Dara Zink, Greg Poelker-McKee, Hannah Green, Kristen Kimball, Laura Boudreau, Lisa Harrington, Brian Maroney, Melissa Senecal, Rob Bahny, Sean-Marie Oller, Nancy Shuttleworth, Tim Payne, Maria Burt, Jeannie Jenkins

Financial Reality Fair

- Held raffle for three students who completed the exit surveys. Prizes were 3 \$100 gift certificates available through a grant from Vermont Community Foundation to BCRC for Workforce and Ed activities.
- Wendy M provided an excellent presentation and slide show highlighting information provided through surveys conducted during sign up and completion of the event.
- Event held at MAUHS
- 169 students registered, 90 participated, 46 completed the exit survey
 - 77 juniors, 92 seniors signed up
 - Educational attainment goals indicate high aspirations
 - Most popular Career Clusters included Health Sciences; Arts, Video, Tech, Communication; and Business
 - Sampling of seniors indicated that some wanted a redo from their junior year experience to try out a different career pathway
 - 50 volunteers assisted
- Suggestions for next year include:
 - Hold event on a full day
 - Timing was tight, attendance is lower on half days (snow day prior day also contributed to lower attendance)
 - Make the event mandatory for juniors
 - Create a smoother timeline for student preparation for the event
 - Consider holding separate events at MAU and BBA

Sophomore Summit

- 243 sophomores signed up and 200 attended
- Event held at SW Tech
- Most popular Career Clusters included Architecture, Construction, Building Trades; Manufacturing, Audiovisual, and Healthcare
- Format worked well but might be easier on a full rather than half day
- 55 community partners involved in the workshops
- Lisa can provide suggestions for next year after debrief with organizing group planned for later today

SVSU 21st Century Grant Application

- Highly competitive grant provides extension of the school day and summer experiences
- SVSU built off of work of the Workforce and Education group, YMCA, TTC, UVM- Ext and other partners
- Particularly focused on career exploration at secondary level
 - Designed to support a pod of secondary students beginning in 9th grade

- Will hear back in spring/implementation July 1

BCRC Webpage for Workforce and Education

- Dara has set up a webpage on the BCRC website to include agendas, minutes, contact info, and information on activities

April Career Month Planning

- Planning committee (Bill, Dara, Wendy M, Jeannie) will meet before the end of February
 - To be involved in the early planning, please reach out to Jeannie and Wendy

News from the Group

- SW Tech Adult Ed
 - Rob shared new CNC Machining course to begin March 19
 - Rob shared new program for fall - Massage Therapy (accommodate up to 6 students)