

CU Cradle2Career

Pathways to Success for Every Student



Goal Team Monthly Report Goal Team: Workforce Readiness

1. Updates since the last report:

- a. The Workforce Readiness Team has divided into two groups. One group will be primarily focused on enhancing the efforts of the community's summer youth employment programs. This includes bringing resources to the programs to help train supervisors and coordinating over 25 volunteers who will assist students with the resume development and also reviewing resumes prior to the summer youth employment job fair.

Update: We had 28 volunteers who reviewed resumes for four days at Centennial, Central, and Urbana High Schools, helping numerous students make their resumes stand out and to highlight their accomplishments.

We collected post-review comments from reviewers on the process for potential improvement for next year. We received positive feedback on what a great program it was, and some have offered more professional staff from their agencies to help next year if we give them more notice in late 2017 or very early 2018 so they can plan accordingly.

- b. The second group will begin work to determine what career exploration and experience means for middle schoolers.

2. Any assistance you would like to request from the steering committee

- a. None at this time.

3. Other comments

- a. Mindy Cain has joined the Chamber staff as the new Director of Workforce Readiness and Member Relations. As she gets up to speed, she will take over the more day-to-day functions of the WFR team and will be responsible for keeping the momentum going. This is part of the Chamber's commitment to ownership of the goal group.
- b. It was noted at the last meeting that due to the participation in the Workforce Readiness Group; the connections made and the conversation – that for the first time, four of the area summer youth employment programs will host a JOINT job fair. We will take small successes where we can get them.

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Update: April 19 was the Career Fair at Centennial High School for Champaign, Urbana and Care4U summer youth employment programs so that companies could interview potential students for summer employment. It was well attended and was an improvement for the employers to just have one career fair for all organizations.

New Healthcare Student Internship Program

On May 3, the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce organized a delegation from Carle, Presence, Champaign Unit 4, Urbana Unit 116, City of Champaign, and Village of Rantoul to go to Huntley, IL to meet with Huntley School District representatives and the Centegra Health System representatives to hear about their Student Medical Academy at the high school and at the health system. The goal was to find out more about their programs so that we can create a healthcare youth internship program here for our community for those students interested in the healthcare field. And to help create a pipeline of qualified workers for our local hospitals and clinics.

The Huntley Medical Academy was created in 2012, with help from Northern Illinois University, to develop a program that would help prepare students for careers and college in the healthcare areas. The small-scale residency program was then designed at Centegra Health System to provide students with structured career education and exposure to jobs at all levels, which would then also create a trained workforce pipeline for Centegra Health System, a newer hospital in the area.

Students would get a 360° view of the medical profession, everything from seeing patients to paperwork, and this would help them be exposed to all aspects of the healthcare field early on so they could make better choices for coursework for their career path and potentially avoid the costly mistake of spending money at college on the wrong career path.

The Huntley Medical Academy has been so successful, they are going to launch an Engineering Academy, and are in the investigative stages for Social Sciences, and Fine Arts, and Global Academies within the high school.