

CU Cradle2Career

Pathways to Success for Every Student



Goal Team Monthly Report Goal Team: Workforce Readiness

1. **Team progress since the last report (attach meeting minutes if applicable)**
2. **If no significant progress made indicate issues with progress**
3. **Agenda item(s) for discussion at next Steering committee (if any).**
 - a. **Define issue and desired outcome of discussion.**
 - b. **Attach relevant documents needed to prepare for discussion**

6-8 Grade Sub-Committee

The committee held the 6-8 Grade Kick-Off Meeting at Papa Del's Pizza on Thursday, October 19 from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm.

Mindy Cain had gathered all of the committee members' information and coordinated the posting of the information on the special website page on the CUC2C website. This page featured information about the meeting and had the participants' photo, job title, organization name, and email.

The meeting was a huge success with the group dividing into four tables to tackle prioritizing of career education goals. Many people there were not aware of what others were doing, so getting everyone together to collaborate was a huge step in the right direction.

The participants were asked if they would like to be involved in the Strategic Plan formulation and it was unanimous that they did. The group will then meet over the coming months to identify a common vision for career education for the 6-8 graders in our community and to foster relationships and potential combined efforts of the schools and providers so everyone works together for the common goal.

Anyone wanting to see the information discussed and see the participants can visit:

<http://cucradle2career.org/wordpress/6-8th-grade-career-discovery-kick-off/>

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Youth Employment Committee

The Chamber prepared a youth employment survey that was sent out to the students at the three high schools. We have received feedback from a small percentage of the students, so the survey is going to be sent out again, along with having the educators talk to the students directly to encourage them to complete it. Results will be available in the next report.

The Chamber also prepared a survey that was sent out to employers about hiring student workers. The majority of the respondents do not hire students for a variety of reasons. We need to communicate the importance of businesses helping to boost their pipeline of qualified workers and to not focus on immediate return on investment, but a longer-term goal of new hires that have the soft skills and experience necessary for employment.

SYEP plans are underway for the 2017/2018 season. The Chamber will once again be helping with resume reviews. Unit 4 will be having a basic resume writing class for students November 28 and 30, and will be looking for professionals to come in and help the students. The Chamber has lined up the professional help from local career agencies for this basic resume writing class, which will take place over the three lunch periods for one day at each school.

It was suggested that this 9-12 grade committee might need some help moving forward for increasing career awareness and youth employment in our community. We may consider hiring a strategic consultant to help guide us and the committee is looking into this and will report more about this at the next meeting.

Other news:

The Healthcare Careers Pilot Program

The Chamber has organized meetings of key players from Champaign, Urbana, and Rantoul schools, as well as Carle, Presence, and Carle Illinois School of Medicine. A promotional flier is being developed by the Chamber for the schools to use to promote the program to students. The next meeting will be in December 2017 to finalize the program.

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The Initiative for Labor Diversity, developed by the U of I, UA Plumbers and Pipefitters #149, and the AFLCIO, is working towards getting more career awareness and education about careers in the trades into the schools and after school providers. The Chamber is involved in the Youth Committee for this group and is working closely with committee members to help bring about more career awareness and education to the 6-12 grades.