
Meeting Recap

- The meeting was convened by Linda Williams, *Senior Director, Community Engagement & Education*, who welcomed Task Force members and introduced members of ideastream’s executive leadership team, Kevin Martin, *President and CEO*, and Sylvia Strobel, *COO*.
- Kevin Martin and Sylvia Strobel welcomed Task Force members on behalf of ideastream, indicating that this American Graduate endeavor is to serve as a “model for the nation,” with respect to the statewide collaborative and innovative programming that will be produced as a result of this project.
- Background of the American Graduate initiative and an overview of the current phase of the program, American Graduate: Getting to Work, was provided by Linda Williams.
- Task Force members introduced themselves and indicated both the organization they represent and the role they feel they can fill as this advisory committee develops.
- Celena Roebuck, *Manager, Community Engagement & Education* provided a brief presentation regarding the American Graduate: Getting to Work initiative and ideastream’s role as convener, producer, and curator, of workforce development discussions, content, and events.
- Task Force members engaged in discussion regarding the challenges facing each of the five American Graduate Content Themes: Career Pathways, Connecting Job Seekers to Networks, Barriers to Job Seekers, Innovative Career Education Models, and Mentorship.
 - Career Pathways
 - Development of Soft Skills
 - People Need to Apply
 - Need More Opportunities for Internships & Co-ops
 - Need More Earn & Learn Opportunities
 - People Need to Support Themselves While Earning Credentials Needed for Key Opportunity Jobs
 - Need to Understand Degree Programs
 - Need to Move into Action Steps to Make Changes Toward Careers

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- Connecting Job Seekers to Networks
 - How to Access Networks
 - Barriers to Job Seekers
 - Insufficient Resources to Receive Training (i.e. Lack of Funds)
 - Advocacy Groups & Individual Job Seekers
 - Child Care
 - Transportation
 - Lack of Guidance Regarding Career Education and Pathways
 - Incarceration / Employment Eligibility
 - Communication Gaps
 - Seekers Can't Find Jobs – Lack of Connection to Networks
 - Discussion was also held regarding the following topics
 - Awareness
 - Lack of Understanding for Job Seekers Regarding What Jobs Are Available
 - Lack of Understanding for Employers Who Need to Access Job Seekers / Networks
 - Need to Start Career Education Earlier in School
 - Is High School Too Late?
 - Some School Districts Starting in 4th Grade
 - Mentorship is Key
 - Mindset
 - “I Need To Own My Success”
 - Job Seekers Want Jobs, but Do Not Have the Mindset to Accomplish This Task Alone
 - False Messaging / Uninformed Messaging
 - Students Choosing Not to Pursue Post-Secondary Training Do Not Have Required Skills for the Jobs They Desire
 - Career Tech Has a Branding Issue
 - Stigma of being for “Those Kids” is Archaic.
 - Using Outdated Levels/Language of Technical School
 - Time to Rebrand

- Low Value Post-Secondary Education Credentials
 - Associates Degree in General Studies without Follow Up to a 4-Year Degree Does Not Constitute Workforce Readiness
 - Lack of Counseling / Guidance / Mentorship Compounds Problems
- Employer Needs
 - Challenges Finding Skilled Employees Who Are Eligible for Employment (Incarceration plays a major role)
 - Disconnect Between Employer Needs and Human Resources Guidelines Prevents Hiring Skilled Workers with Prior Convictions
- Job Seeker Needs
 - Need to Work and Obtain Credentials Simultaneously
 - Employment Competencies
 - Digital Literacy
 - Skills Training
- The meeting concluded with all Task Force members being asked to submit flyers/information regarding upcoming workforce development events to Christopher.Crawford@ideastream.org for posting on the ideastream In Demand Jobs webpage. www.ideastream.org/InDemandJobs Event information will be posted and curated by ideastream as part of the American Graduate initiative.
- An American Graduate Partner Survey will be sent electronically to Task Force members during the week of April 30 – May 4, 2018. This survey will provide ideastream with a key regional data snapshot that will be contributed as part of a larger data collection initiative geared toward painting a detailed picture of the national workforce development landscape.
- ideastream's American Graduate webpage www.ideastream.org/AmericanGraduate is in development and will eventually house initiative-related content produced by ideastream, CET (Cincinnati), and WOSU (Columbus.)

Next Meeting: June 21, 2018 | 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

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