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.

  o 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
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.)
American Graduate
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April 26, 2018

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## American Graduate Leadership

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