

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*.
- Celena Roebuck, *Manager, Community Engagement & Education*, led Task Force members through an introductory activity, in which each member shared the major influencer(s) on his/her career path.
- Following the discussion on career influencers, a discussion was held regarding the five American Graduate themes:
 - Career Pathways
 - Connecting Job Seekers to Networks
 - Barriers to Job Seekers
 - Innovative Career Education Models
 - Mentorship
- Of these five themes, Career Pathways, Mentorship, and Barriers to Job Seekers emerged as priority themes for the group to address.
- Discussion was then held, focusing on what community groups are already being reached. Examples offered include:
 - CMSD – True to You (8th Graders)
 - Wickliffe Schools – Future Readiness Focus (4th – 12th Graders)
 - Includes Site Visits, Speakers, Job Shadowing
 - State Board of Education – Menu of options for High School Graduation Requirements – Goal of implementing changes for the 2019-2020 school year.
 - RITE Board – Passport to IT, Summer Camps, ProCorp
 - LCCC – SALE Program (Program for single parents seeking education/training)
 - WIDA – Youth Camps (ages 14-24) impacting 5,000 – 6,000 youth
 - College Now Mentorship Program
 - Generation Work – Towards Employment Grant
 - Works to create a plan for youth employment training (Ages 16-29)
 - The Collaboration – Major Provider Network for Cuyahoga County
 - Works to address regional concerns for disconnected youth
 - Bridges to Work (Geauga County) – Hosted a recent Job Fair

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- Concerns were raised by the group regarding the level of systemic and scaling for the region. Programs are effective on small scales, but what about all of Northeast Ohio?
 - Mentors in schools to support career preparation and decision making was suggested as a possible opportunity for improving the existing system.
 - Discussion was held regarding the top areas for job seekers. The following five areas emerged as priorities for the region:
 - IT
 - Health Care
 - Manufacturing
 - Construction
 - Hospitality
 - Discussion was held regarding barriers to job seekers. The following four areas emerged as priority topics during the discussion:
 - Transportation
 - Child Care
 - Cultural Bias
 - Hiring Bias among employers
 - Greater Cleveland Partnership has a program to address concerns of hiring bias among local employers:
 - Commission on Economic Inclusion
 - Members of this consortium are employers who share best practices and work to address implicit bias and improve the hiring process among their peers.
 - The development of an Action Plan began with discussion of how partner organizations can work with ideastream to improve the concerns raised by the Task Force. Brainstorm ideas include the following:
 - Launch a campaign for “Get Good Jobs”
 - Host a Disconnected Youth Forum
 - Convene a forum for Employers to become educated about Sector Partnerships
 - Convene Influencers and Schools to discuss issues and potential solutions
 - Convene Business Influencers to discuss issues and potential solutions
 - Host a Community Forum, in the community, to discuss these issues

- Capture stories of average citizens and the influencers on their career paths – post on social media for greater reach to target audience
 - Host a public service recruitment campaign for mentoring programs
 - Address the mismatch between certificates and job requirements – engage employers and training organizations
 - Use youth to influence youth – recruit formerly disconnected youth to meet with currently disconnected youth to shed light on their pathways to success
 - Create an inventory of what successful programs are already happening and drive awareness – The answers are here, but we don't know where.
 - Students/Youth need internships – Employers need to open doors to students
 - Improve transportation options for students seeking internships
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- Planning for a Statewide Event was discussed. Task Force members strongly recommended reaching out to disconnected youth and employers to gain insight for planning the event.
 - During the summer months, Task Force members are encouraged to continue sending events for promotion on the American Graduate website to Celena Roebuck.
 - An American Graduate Partner Survey will be sent electronically to Task Force members during the week of July 9 – July 13, 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

Next Meeting: September 4, 2018 | 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

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