Committee: Education Attainment

(Strategic Plan: Goal #2)

Goal #2, Education Attainment

Chair: Johnny Collett

KWIB Staff Contact: LaChrista Ellis

Connected Workgroups:

1. CTE Certification & Continuous Improvement
2. CTE/Perkins Leadership

GOAL #2: Align and integrate P-12, adult education and postsecondary education to provide lifelong opportunities for Kentuckians that prepare them for the rapidly shifting realities of work in the future.

Strategic Objectives

2a: Increase career exploration opportunities while students are in P-12, and provide all students an opportunity to earn a certificate or credential prior to graduation, with emphasis on those credentials where dual secondary /postsecondary academic credit is awarded.

2b: Review and adjust the structure (locations, pathways, and resources) of Pre-K through postsecondary delivery to align and integrate the Commonwealth's educational infrastructure based on employer needs.

2c: Increase awareness of all market-relevant career pathways among students, educators, guidance counselors, career counselors and parents.

2d: Improve the sharing and use of data to inform the ongoing curriculum design for P-12 and postsecondary institutions.

2e : Create opportunities for early, mid, and later-career learning for all Kentucky workers to provide a range of learning opportunities for growth, upskilling, and adaptation to changes in the nature and structure of work.

2f: Encourage the agility, responsiveness and desire for lifelong learning among older Kentucky workers.

Successful Deliverables:

1. An adequate supply of middle and advanced skill workers to meet the hiring projections of Kentucky's employers

2. At least 40% of Kentuckians possess training sufficient to fill a "middle skill" job, with 70% having acquired some postsecondary training or credential beyond a high school diploma

3. High school graduation requirements reformed to give more credit to technical training and promote work-based learning as part of the curriculum

4. Technical education courses are aligned to postsecondary credits and programs offered by local institutions of higher education, increasing the availability of dual credit and "stackable" credentials

5. Implementation of program-specific goals and metrics for K-12 technical education programs aligned with industry needs

In the short term, we will:

• Identify shortages in current supply versus demand of incumbent worker training

• Assess alignment of technical education and postsecondary programs for both locations and programs

• Create awareness by students of professional opportunities within Kentucky's high-demand fields by leveraging existing networks and modes of communication with employers

• Align P-12 educational assets and infrastructure against documented workforce needs communicated by industry employers

• Create a resource network for older Kentuckians to retrain and upskill for late career opportunities

In the near term, we will:

• Establish statewide advisory committees to aggregate and streamline employer feedback to educators and providers on technical and workforce training needs

• Use data to identify enhancements and augment curricular design to align educational delivery to labor market demand as students transition from P-12 to full-time employment

• Craft messaging targeted to specific audiences (students, parents, teachers, counselors, etc.) to convey the scope and scale of today's available job opportunities, including competitive salaries, exciting and innovative work, tuition reimbursement, and rapid advancement for enthusiastic learners

• Support additional capacity for re-skilling adult populations

• Pilot a P-12 suite of career exploration activities at the school district, city, and county level, leveraging successful existing program models to create a scalable approach

In the long term, we plan to:

• Institutionalize a continuous feedback loop between employers and the education and workforce development community

• Maintain an ongoing balance within the incumbent worker training portfolio

• Structure incentives that keep older workers productive in the workforce longer

• Identify additional opportunities to access, share, and integrate workforce development and education data across workforce partner sources

Full Strategic Plan can be viewed and downloaded here:
https://kwib.ky.gov/About/Documents/KWIB_Strategic_Plan_2020.pdf