RPI REGION 8 EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

February 13, 2017

2:00 P.M.

W.E. Upjohn Institute

300 South Westnedge Ave

Kalamazoo, MI 49007

AGENDA

1. Meeting Purpose
2. Review RPI Strategic Planning/Action Item

**Encourage infrastructure development and interconnectivity to better support education, training, and employment**

**Support work of existing organizations in the following areas:**

**• Adult education**

**• Credential acquisition  
• Career exploration  
• Functional literacy  
• Skilled trades  
• Employers**

1. Discuss and Refine the “Big Idea”

**The big idea?** **– Generally**: pursue goal #4 to get to goal #5

**The big idea? – Specifically**: There is a sweet spot for high school grads and college students when they can pursue their interests through internships. This sweet spot doesn’t necessarily exist for those not enrolled in college and it doesn’t tend to exist for those who have graduated from college. Is it possible to recreate that job carousel for all segments of the labor force? Can we recreate the “gig economy” notion as a way of providing experience in the workforce to sample various jobs that might help an individual find the right fit? Workers get valuable experience and pay. Employers get important work done.

The gig economy essentially links people for nodes of time for a single project. WMU is working on a similar idea and through their platform it might be possible to:

* Have the laborer and employer RATE one another
* Develop a carousel of jobs and skills
* Give oneself an internship skill-building experience

Include a developmental module in which participants can be virtually linked to coaches who can help provide input on particular skill sets

1. Existing or Potential Regional Synergies
   1. What work is being done currently on goals/opportunities?
   2. What organizations are engaged in the work?
   3. Are there opportunities to align the existing efforts?
2. Summary