

Southwest Michigan Regional Prosperity Initiative

May 7, 2015 Meeting Notes

Attendees

Dennis Berkebile	Consumers Energy
Jill Bland	Southwest Michigan First
Barbara Craig	Bertrand Crossing Campus, Lake Michigan College
Michael Evans	Kalamazoo Literacy Council
Jan Karazim	Kellogg CC
Jason Latham	MDOT Southwest Region
Kim Bell	Adult Learning Collaborative Board
David Campbell	KRESA
Corey Carolla	Kinexus/Michigan Works
Mike Hoffner	Branch ISD
Deb Miller	KRESA
Bob Miller	WMU
Rebecca Rocho	Calhoun ISD
Jennifer Searls	Branch ISD
Linda Snyder	Goodwill Industries
Chris Spradlin	Lake Michigan College
Matt Lynn	United Way
Julie Pioch	MSU Extension
Sandy Standish	KC Ready 4s/Learning Network
Eric Stewart	KRESA

Welcome and Introductions

Introductions of Committee members and regional partners in attendance were made.

John Egelhaaf (Southwest Michigan Planning Commission) provided an overview of the subcommittee process.

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Region 8: Education Goal and Asset Inventory

John Egelhaaf and Michael Evans (Kalamazoo Literacy Council) presented an update of the RPI's education goal (see Exhibit A). Prosperity Committee members will review and adopt the final draft at the June 4 meeting.

John Egelhaaf presented the results of the inventory of assets related to Education. The presentation can be downloaded at http://smpcregion3.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Education-Data-RPI-Presentation_Final.pdf.

Dialogue on Education

John Egelhaaf invited participants to identify potential project areas for advancing RPI's Education goal. See Exhibit B for suggestions.

John Egelhaaf and Lee Adams (Southcentral Michigan Planning Council) will work with the Education subcommittee to prepare this list for prioritization at the June 4 Prosperity Committee meeting.

Next Steps

The RPI Committee will meet June 4 to review the suggested Education projects and identify priorities.

Adjournment

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Exhibit A: Updated Education Goal

Education Goal

Promote talent development and retention to encourage growth and sustainability in all facets of the local economy.

Opportunities

1. Promote accessibility and opportunities to participate in education and skilled training programs
2. Promote the coordination, and encourage a larger number, of internships, apprenticeships, and across the region and across the continuum of learners
3. Encourage a culture of learning
4. Encourage infrastructure development and interconnectivity to better support education, training, and employment
5. Support work of, and develop a communication conduit for, existing education organizations

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Exhibit B: Suggested Project Areas as captured during the May 7 RPI meeting

1. Project “Lead the Way” – project-based curriculum K-12
2. United for Change – 8th grade thru high school, externships, career fairs, and internships
3. Regional coordinating body for internships to eliminate confusion
4. Career Expo – region-wide
5. Concierge for adult education programs – maintain RPI’s focus on adults – consider a pilot
6. Rethink credentials to employment and GED as ‘the’ credential; consider trade-focused credentials sans GED
7. Inventory career-development opportunities and events; share regionally; best/effective practices
8. Coordinate talent district career councils region-wide
9. Align with the Common Core
10. Foster service learning and internships to increase probability of degree completion – broaden opportunities beyond traditional internship fields
11. Disparity of CTE funding – county/millage, local school, and other funding
12. Availability of CTE beyond high school
13. High-school internship opportunities – summer camp experience – extend beyond field trips, job shadows, co-op
14. Better connections with employers to provide experiences for young people under 18 – re-think minimal levels of employment (e.g., education, substance abuse, criminal history) – need to have employers at the table to have these kinds of conversations
15. Broaden membership to Education Subcommittee – don’t have to be members of Prosperity Committee – limited engagement – Talent District Career Councils include these organizations, but need regional coordination
16. Culture of Learning – simultaneous learning and work experience
17. Promote acceptance of alternative diplomas or credential by employers
18. Common set of data – e.g., define and count internships per high-school and college (create baseline data and make data accessible – Asset Map)

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19. Rebuild and focus assets on developing infrastructure for reaching adult illiterate population
20. Establish an ESL collaborative – share resources to reach non-native speakers; include basic literacy
21. Develop means to share practices of creating and developing internships
22. Focus ESL on future employment sectors – e.g. ESL for hospitality (what language do they need to know for that type of work?)
23. Don't lose focus on the education foundation (Pre-K through Secondary)