

CAREER CONNECTIONS GROUP

December 19, 2007

Orrin E. Bailey, Secretary

CCG Members:	Present:	Excused:
Mr. Paul Bonsall	X	
Mr. Tony Ebli	X	
Mr. Larry Godwin		X
Ms. Laurie Kaufman	X	
Dr. Paul Lang	X	
Ms. Gina Lindquist	X	
Mr. Don Mourand	X	
Mr. Steve Norman		X
Ms. Johanna Ostwald	X	
Dr. Steve Piereson	X	
Mr. Michael Powers	X	
Mr. Tony Retaskie	X	
Dr. June Schaefer	X	
Ms. Jenny Short		X
Ms. Darlene Smith	X	
Mr. Kel Smyth	X	
Ms. Sheila Veraghen	X	
Mr. Alan Yeck	X	

I. Call To Order

II. Roll Call

A. Career Connections Group

A membership quorum is present.

III. Public Comment

There is no public comment. W. Carne welcomes Amy Berglund (Regional Representative for Senator Carl Levin), Sheri Davie (UP Regional Manager for Senator Debbie Stabenow), Representative Steve Lindberg, Dr. Laura Coleman (President Bay College), Barb Walden (Director of Workforce Development, M-TEC), Luann Dunsford (Chief Executive Officer of the Michigan Works! Association), Kevin Joyce (Chief Information Officer of the Michigan Works! Association) and Malorie Kersten (Public Relations and Special Events Coordinator of the Michigan Works! Association), Jon Harry (Director of Manufacturing, Systems Control) and Lloyd Matthes (CUPPAD Regional Director). W. Carne also welcomes new JFB member Richard Crofton (Escaaba Daily Press) and new CCG members Tom Sparacino (NewPage), Chuck Guay (Delta Schoolcraft ISD).

IV. Approval of Agenda- Action

A. Career Connections Group

Motion to approve the CCG agenda is made; motion is supported and carries unanimously.

V. Reading, Correction, and Action on Minutes - Action

A. Career Connections Group

Motion to approve previous CCG meeting minutes is made; motion is supported and carries unanimously.

VI. Career Connections Group – Reports in CCG Board Packet

A. Central UP Education Workgroup

T. Ebli reports that this workgroup has been working with the Manufacturing Skills Alliance to survey schools regarding student enrollment in the Engineering, Manufacturing and Industrial Technology Pathway. To this meeting date, a 75% response rate indicated that there are 2326 secondary students enrolled in CTE Classes within this pathway. MARESA has copies available of the full survey to interested parties.

In response to requests to learn more about “who’s in the pipeline,” T. Ebli presents Career and Technical Education Data for the 2006-2007 School year. State approved CTE classes require that the curriculum be taught by a certified vocational teacher. Each program has an advisory committee. Curriculums must align with national standards, technical standards, industry certifications, academic core and career and employability. During the 2006-2007 school year, there were 66 CTE Programs in the region with 47 articulated with one or more college courses. There were 77 articulation agreements developed with the regional programs. 4,818 students were enrolled in these programs. Almost one-half of the students were enrolled in business related courses. Student enrollment by Career Pathway indicates that 58% of the students were enrolled in Business; 20% in Engineering; 6% in Health Sciences; 11% in Human Services and 2% in both Arts & Communications and Natural Resources.

B. Contextual Learning Committee:

K. Smyth reports with update for the committee. Deb LaPine, Director of the Bureau of Career Education Programs at the Department of Labor and Economic Growth attended the most recent committee meeting.

This committee met with the Career and Employability Skills Committee and the Youth Committee to learn about the Dickinson Iron ISD Math and Science Partnership with VERSO, Stora Enso, Louisiana Pacific and Nelco Chemicals. “Discovering the Paper Industry” offered an opportunity for teachers to learn about the paper industry and to take hands-on learning back to their classrooms. The summer activity was developed as a result of parents who worked at VERSO hearing from their children the misconceptions by teachers about the paper industry. The program offered instruction for the pulping and bleaching practices to forestry management to economics culminating with a tour of VERSO. VERSO is working with the DIISD to develop a course for high school chemistry teachers to explore the paper industry.

NewPage has partnered with the Temperate Forest Foundation that brings teachers into Escanaba from across the country to study forest management. The NMU School of Education is also sponsoring teacher education students to participate in hands on learning experiences at Clear Lake, focusing on bring more applied learning concepts to future teachers. The Committee is exploring an opportunity to build a Mobile Career Exploration Unit with the UP Construction RSA.

C. Career and Employability Skills Committee:

D. Mourand reports for the committee. The committee recently surveyed K-12 schools to determine what level of career education exists within our schools. The survey confirmed the committee’s perception that career education activities are occurring in schools at various levels. Schools welcome the opportunity for business to come into the schools to talk with students about careers.

Survey results indicated that activities such as career fairs, job shadowing and networking breakfasts are on-going activities. As the Michigan Merit Curriculum is requiring students to make career choices on their Educational Development Plans as early as 7th grade, more focus on business presentations to middle school audiences is recommended.

VII. Adjournment