

CAREER CONNECTIONS GROUP

June 20, 2007

Orrin E. Bailey, Secretary

Members:	Present:	Excused:
Mr. Paul Bonsall	X	
Mr. Tony Ebli	X	
Mr. Larry Godwin	X	
Ms. Laurie Kaufman		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	

I. Call to Order

K. Smyth called meeting to order. Christopher Rosborough, Department of Labor and Economic Growth, and Josh Sampson from North Menominee Community Schools were introduced. D. Mourand recognized CCG Member Mike Powers for his recent recognition as Schoolcraft County's Person of the Year.

II. Roll Call

III. Approval of Agenda

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

IV. Reading, Correction and Action on Minutes

March 21, 2007 minutes accepted for file.

V. Old Business

A. Central U.P. Education Workgroup

The Michigan Merit Curriculum requires the development of educational development plans (EDP)s before students can take high school courses. Since some students take high school math in the eighth grade, many schools are looking at implementing the EDPs at the seventh grade level. Although one of the goals of our region's career preparation plan was to implement and integrate EDPs, when the funding ceased, in some school districts so did the continuation of the EDPs. The regional ISDs have assigned staff to work with their local school districts to re-educate the teachers. Upon implementation at the seventh

grade level, there continues to be the discussion as to who may take on the role in subsequent school years to ensure students have up to date information. The EDPs also come into play when a student and parent choose a personal curriculum path.

ISDs are looking at options to set the system in place. Some of those options include working with Principals to ensure they are champions of the initiative; presenting models at Parent Teacher Conferences and possibly adopting a mentor-mentee model in which a teacher initiates the EDP and follows the student through high school graduation.

T. Ebli presented Northern Michigan University's and Bay College's '07-'08 Perkins Post Secondary Grant to the Career Connections Group for review. The Perkins Basic State Grants provide resources to secondary and postsecondary career technical education programs to support innovation and program improvement. Eligible recipients include high schools, area career technical schools, and community and technical colleges. State and local funds generally are used for developing a strong accountability system that ensures quality and results and strengthening the integration of academic and career technical education.

Perkins Funds will be used by Bay College for a part-time Tech Prep Coordinator, Learning Assistant Positions for Waste Water and Computer Tech to provide additional academic support. There will be some capital equipment purchases to include equipment to support the expansion of the Nursing Program at Bay West and additional equipment to support other technical programs such as Computer Aided Design and NATEF certification requirements for Auto Tech. Allocation this year is \$202,000. K. Smyth stated that the Chair of the Career Connections Group is required to sign off on the grants. Grants were signed by K. Smyth and D. Mourand.

Mr. Ebli outlined the changes in Federal Perkins IV when presenting on behalf of Northern Michigan University (NMU). The focus is to be on high skill/high wage or high demand occupations that lead to self-sufficiency; teacher retention and recruitment; linkages with secondary career and technical education; emphasis on math and science knowledge and student understanding of post-secondary choices and career options. NMU will expand career and academic counseling services; continue peer academic and technical tutoring; provide new non-traditional and special populations student scholarships; expand support for U.P. high school Career Pathway presentations and continue to improve "Pathways to Your Future" event for 11th grade students. Allocation is \$299,095, a 24.2% increase in funding from prior year.

Mr. Ebli updated the members on the three Career and Technical Education programs that were brought before the Career Connections Group. Michigan's Department of Education approved the Airframe Technology (MARESA) at

Northern; Construction Trades at N.I.C.E. Community Schools and the Electrical Mechanical Program at N.I.C.E. Community Schools. The CTE Directors have agreed to sponsor an Upper Peninsula wide Counseling Workshop to build counselor capacity in Career and Technical Education Programs.

In 2005, the Upper Peninsula Intermediate School Districts received grant dollars for Entrepreneurship Curriculum Development. Some of the grant projects included working with secondary and post secondary instructors to align their curriculum in order to incorporate an experienced based class project to provide a real Entrepreneurship experience to students; to integrate entrepreneurial instructional units into classroom instruction; to distribute regional brochures and pamphlets containing Entrepreneurial alignment and information to all U.P. High Schools and to develop post-secondary Entrepreneurship course offerings. The results of the grant were presented at the June 2006 Career Connections Group meeting. In order to develop activities to support the Job Force Board's Strategic Plan, the CTE will survey schools to determine what entrepreneurial activities within the secondary and post-secondary educational institutions are continuing, where gaps exist and next steps. Entrepreneurism will become a focus of this committee.

B. Career and Employability Skills

D. Mourand provided update of committee activities. Members reviewed the Job Force Board Strategic Plan and specifically those goals relating to the Career Connections Group. The evaluation looked at what activities did occur versus what didn't happen. The feasibility of presenting at one-teacher in-service within each school district during year one was deemed to be overly ambitious. There appears to be an interest in presentations and the need to get information to the Superintendents and Administrators is important. Labor market information was presented to teachers during an in-service at the Delta Schoolcraft ISD through a '*Did You Know...*' flyer format. Teachers in the Manistique School District attended an in-service on WorkKeys® sponsored by the Job Force Board. The workgroup brainstormed what other options may be available to get labor market information to not only the students and teachers, but to the parents as well. Suggestions included utilizing the school's website, newsletters and inter-school technologies to give updates or model after the "*Did You Know*" flyer format. This activity would be in addition to working with schools to coordinate business/classroom presentations. Exploring public service announcements is another option that the committee is researching for "marketing" labor market information. D. Mourand added that Kathy Salow of the Bureau of Labor Market Information is a great resource.

The committee wants to get a picture of what career activities are occurring in the schools and what gap areas may be addressed through the CCG. Orrin stated that the Manufacturing RSA distributed surveys to schools that documented interest by the schools to have representatives of the industry make presentations. J.

Ostwald asked if the presenters were being trained before going into the classroom. Through experience, she indicated that preparing the presenters prior to school visits would be beneficial based on feedback from past activities. Discussion supported providing resources to these volunteers to better connect with the teacher and students. Information will be forwarded to the Job Force Board for distribution.

T. Ebli added that MARESA has prepared a packet for presenters that he will share with the members.

C. Applied Learning

The committee reviewed the alignment of their activities to the Job Force Board's Strategic Plan. This committee's primary focus has been to promote teacher internships at businesses. With No Child Left Behind and state curriculum changes mandated, the workgroup continues to seek opportunities that will blend the academic mandates with hands on learning. The most visible on hands application this year was sponsored through the Upper Peninsula Construction Regional Skills Alliance. The career fair held at NewPage offered 200 students from the Delta Schoolcraft Intermediate School District the opportunity to participate in an on-hands learning experience. From simulated design to using welding equipment and jack hammers to operating back hoes to riding in a "cherry picker". Wisconsin Electric representatives attended the event in Escanaba and would like to duplicate this event in Marquette. It is anticipated that this event would alternate through counties. Cost consideration and sponsorships are important components to the success of the event.

Another event sponsored by the RSA was the Skills USA competition. T. Retaskie passed around a news article featuring the event. Students built half-sheds with eight teams competing. Next year welding will be added. T. Retaskie talked about hosting a summer career fair near popular youth "hangouts". The Line Tech School is opening up the interview process. He added there are career opportunities for youth who like the outdoors, heights and travel. J. Short added that WPS faces challenges in recruiting beyond the lineman positions and across the industry, retirements are adding to the challenge.

J. Ostwald reported that VERSO and LP is working with Middle School Science Teachers as a result of hearing feedback that some teachers were talking to students about forest industry and paper industry in derogatory terms through their science classes. This summer teachers have an opportunity to work with the Department of Environment Quality to do an environmental impact study of the mill. Twenty-five to thirty teachers have signed up for the opportunity. Teachers will have the opportunity to earn continuing education credits. K. Smyth mentioned that the Temperate Forest Foundation which does teacher training programs across the country will be in Escanaba on July 18th and 19th. The organization brings in teachers from other states focusing on biology and chemistry.

S. Veraghen spoke to the committee about the Heating Cooling and Refrigeration “Pod” that was recently purchased for middle school students and alternative schools through two percent dollars. J. Ostwald thought that a project such as this would be something the Career Connections Group may want to consider. What collaborative efforts could be put in place to share the pods? The committee thought that these types of activities needed to be publicized more. Utilizing media such as TV 6’s “Investing in the Upper Peninsula” is a logical venue for celebrating these activities. The discussion brought to light a need a central clearing house would be a valuable resource to advertise these activities, provide information if interested in replicating, etc.

The Michigan School Improvement Framework Strands includes under School and Community Relations, Engagement of the Business Community. Presentation to the School Improvement Teams has been identified as another resource to improve the business education connections. The previously mentioned discussion brought to light the need to identify the activities that are taking place in the schools. Since the CES committee is developing a survey tool, this committee will work with them to finalize the tool and gather data to help identify the gap areas. The gap areas are those schools that are not providing career exploration learning experiences to their students. It is hoped that the survey will also provide additional information on best practices.

VI. New Business

K. Smyth congratulated D. Doyle on her acceptance into the Aspen Institute’s Sector Skills Academy; adding that the institute is a well-known and renowned organization.

D. Mourand asked the ISDs if the group could pool together the information of the Career and Technical Education Classes offered in the region. This would help to identify who is in the pipeline. With some post secondary programs it is difficult to recruit youth to careers. For example, youth are more attracted to auto mechanics than airplane mechanics because youth see immediate gratification working with “their” auto. P. Bonsall stated that when targeting youth as sophomores, they are more interested in Pathways than specific careers.

VII. Public Comment

Christopher Rosborough shared an appreciation for the work of the Career Connections Group.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.