



**Education Team Monthly Meeting
February 18, 2021
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Virtual Meeting on Zoom Platform**

Meeting Notes

Attendance

This monthly meeting of the Education Team focused on obtaining input from IU Northwest and Purdue Northwest on the current status of admissions at both universities as impacted by the pandemic. Input was also obtained from our CTE Directors on the impact of state actions and the pandemic on future CTE offerings in the region. Online attendance for this meeting was 92 at its peak.

Call to Order & Announcements

Peggy Buffington and ***Mark Sperling***, Education Team Co-Chairs, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Several updates were provided by the Center of Workforce Innovations (CWI):

- The CWI Board has selected ***Lisa Daugherty*** to be President & CEO effective March 1, 2021 – ***Linda Woloshansky***, who played a key role in the founding of READY NWI over nine years ago, will be assisting Lisa in transition to her new role over the next couple of months – Lisa previously served as President of Lake Area United Way and brings a lot of community relationships that will be valuable in advancing READY NWI goals;
- ***Barb Grimsgard***, CWI Communications Manager, presented an update on the series of sessions that continue to be presented by our local building trades unions – the virtual series continues to be well-attended by our K-12 students in the region – all sessions are recorded and can be found at www.readynwi.com;
- ***Danni Mancusi-Shreve***, CWI Work Ethic Coordinator, provided an update on another successful year for our region’s efforts with both the Governor’s Work Ethic Certificate and the Regional Work Ethic Certificate – over 900 NWI students are currently on track to receive either Governor’s or regional certificates – it is critical for all schools to stay in close contact with Danni (dmancusishreve@cwicorp.com) to ensure that she has all the information needed for upcoming student awards.

Career & Technical Education (CTE) Update

Audra Peterson, Chair of the CTE Directors Team, provided an update from the monthly CTE Directors meeting on several items:

Legislation & Discussions with Legislators

- HB1397 was amended to remove the language on “low wage” jobs
- HB1001 continues to be a concern as it would eliminate the less-than-moderate value CTE courses while increasing funds for the high value level 1 and level 2 courses – overall impact for NWI schools could be reduction in overall CTE funding and loss of funding for programs such as Cosmetology, Culinary, Horticulture, and Energy – this could lead to elimination of some of these programs locally
- IACTED will continue to lobby against this language in HB1001 - CTE directors are collecting data on how the loss of funds would impact their districts it is important to continue to speak with your state legislators to get them to understand the impact the bill will have on funds and students in our region.

Impact on CTE Courses Planned for Next School Year

- Next Level Programs of Study (NLPS) – almost all NWI schools are moving forward on adoption of the new structure as quickly as possible while making sure that students in older programs are not negatively impacted
- Concentrator A & B classes must be one period long for the entire school year
- Principles courses have similar licensing requirements to Concentrator A & B courses
- No course standards yet
- No finalized licensing requirements yet
- Trying to make sure colleges understand these requirements as well, as smooth transition to post-secondary courses continues to be key goal.

Impact of COVID-19 on CTE Enrollments & Courses

- No notable changes this year because students had exposure to CTE courses in previous years (current sophomores had traditional CTE exposure as 8th graders and freshmen)
- Worried about enrollment in the upcoming years as many students have lost out on typical exposure and guidance on CTE courses, thus impacting the traditional pipelines.

CTE Month Activities

- Celebrating CTE teachers and students
- Social Media highlights and Mayoral proclamations
- Great News Weekly Interview on Friday

<i>Admissions Update: Indiana University Northwest (IUN) & Purdue Northwest (PNW)</i>
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Dorothy Frink, IUN Admissions Director and ***Yohlunda Mosley***, PNW Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management & Student Affairs, provided information and updates from their respective universities:

Indiana University Northwest (IUN)

- Impact of COVID-19 on College Enrollments & Applications
 - ✓ Delays in students meeting application deadlines
 - ✓ Test optional option is encouraging more students to apply to bigger schools instead of regional universities (this is not likely to be a permanent situation)
 - ✓ 12% decrease in FAFSA submissions (likely that more students intend to go into the workforce first before going to college)
- What K-12 students should know about application process & requirements
 - ✓ Many students see certificates as more desirable right now than a 4-year degree – we must continue to emphasize the value of the degree plus the ability to stack credentials toward a degree
 - ✓ Students are more sensitive to cost of college right now
 - ✓ IUN is here to help schools help students apply and fill out FAFSA
- Initiatives that can be taken to increase recruitment & enrollment
 - ✓ Help students understand the power of a 2 or 4 year degree
 - ✓ Encourage students to apply to local colleges
 - ✓ Develop cohorts of students to target conversations/support
 - ✓ Increase programs focused on pipelines of students
 - ✓ Let students know there are still opportunities for in-person tours
- Questions/Answers
 - ✓ RAISE ME allows students to earn scholarships throughout high school, including freshmen year - they can earn up to \$2,000
 - ✓ IUN does offer merit-based scholarships – standardized tests are still important for obtaining these (minimum 1080 SAT and 3.0 GPA required)

Purdue University Northwest (PNW)

- COVID accelerated the timeframe for some of the initiatives related to admissions – we knew we were facing challenges as a result of demographics, but we had to do things in 2 months that we thought would take 5 years
- More underserved students are not engaging in the college-going process – we have to be more creative in engaging them
- Saw a significant drop in first-time students and students who “stopped out” after the Fall semester
- Hoping to reengage a lot of these students once in-person classes fully resume, as students still want the in-person experience of college
- 60% of students are spending as much time as allowed on their applications
- Focusing on future is challenging, worried about how COVID is affecting the college experience
- Current college freshmen lost out on senior high school milestones and are now not experiencing the typical college entry experience – this may impact their ideas about post-

secondary education forever – we will need to pay close attention to the attitudes of the next wave of students exiting high school, along with the attitudes of their parents and adult workers in a rapidly changing higher education environment.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Adjournment & Next Meeting</i></p>
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The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Meetings of the Education Team will continue to be held virtually until further notice, with the next monthly meeting occurring on *Thursday, March 18, 2021, 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.*

Please contact **Beki Vogelpohl** (rvogelpohl@cwicorp.com) or **Roy Vanderford** (rvanderford@cwicorp.com) if you have questions or comments, updates on members to be added or deleted, or ideas for content for the meetings.