



Education Team Monthly Meeting
September 16, 2021
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Virtual Meeting on Zoom Platform

Meeting Notes

Attendance

This meeting of the Education Team was the kickoff meeting for the READY NWI monthly meetings for the 2021-22 school year. The meetings in September through November will feature presentations that were originally scheduled for the postponed Summer Institute. This September kickoff including presentations by Commissioner Teresa Lubbers (Indiana Commission for Higher Education) and Dr. Katie Jenner (Indiana Department of Education).

Online attendance for this meeting was 76 at its peak.

Call to Order & Welcome

Peggy Buffington, Education Team Co-Chair for K-12, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and introduced the agenda items for the meeting. Commissioner Lubbers and Dr. Jenner joined us for 30-40 minutes each, with presentations on the state of K-12 and higher education, followed by brief questions/answers. Their PowerPoint presentations are available on the READY NWI website at www.readynwi.com. Below are a few highlights and points of emphasis from their presentations.

Commissioner Teresa Lubbers, IN Commission for Higher Education

Commissioner Lubbers noted the following in her remarks:

- ✓ Our challenges continue to mount related to meeting Indiana’s goal of 60% of adults with high-quality post-secondary credentials by 2025 – the COVID year added to the challenge but also increased our ability to provide online education
- ✓ The Indiana economy, along with economies of other states, will be “talent driven” with businesses creating good jobs where they can find good skills – our higher education system will need to be “learner centered” with multiple entry points that attract adults throughout their lives

- ✓ Indiana continues to be a champion of dual credits as a strategy for college success – 68% of students who earn dual credits in high school continue to college, compared to only 31% of students who don't earn dual credits
- ✓ The 21st Century Scholars program continues to show excellent results – 88% of participating Scholars in Indiana continue to college – 91% in NW Indiana
- ✓ Indiana College Core ensures that dual credits have value in meeting college requirements and in transferring college-to-college
- ✓ The Next Level Jobs initiative has been a major addition to Indiana's efforts to provide new entry points to higher education for adults in the state – over 150 certificate programs are available through the program
- ✓ FAFSA completion by high school students is also an important ingredient in increasing college enrollments as many students still aren't aware of the grants that are available to them -in Indiana 55% of high school students completed the FAFSA

<i>Dr. Katie Jenner, IN Department of Education</i>
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Dr. Jenner, Secretary of Education, emphasized the points that Commissioner Lubbers had made and provided additional insights from a K-12 perspective:

- ✓ The COVID year has been challenging but has also served as an accelerator for progress in areas such as in online and hybrid learning
- ✓ We are constantly adding good jobs in the Indiana economy, but very few of them can be obtained with a high school diploma or below – you can qualify for many of the jobs with higher education credentials that are not the traditional 4-year degree programs
- ✓ We have a gap between what high school students say they will do and what they actually do related to higher education – 79% of students say they are going from high school to higher education, but only 59% do; of the students who go from high school to college only 66% complete college on time
- ✓ “Summer melt” has been a concern for a number of years – we need to be more intensive about maintaining contact and engaging the “missing 20%” as they had intentions about accessing higher education but didn't follow through
- ✓ Indiana continues to be a national leader in award of dual credits to high school students with 64% of our students graduating with some credits - the average number of credits is 13.5 and still rising
- ✓ We can't re-think what happens in high school without re-thinking middle school and elementary school -academic foundations and attitudes about higher education, types of desirable occupations, work ethic, and many other things are formed in the early years of K-12
- ✓ We must also continue to make advances in pre-K and early learning
- ✓ Employers must also be engaged in new ways as we expand learning beyond the classrooms via work-based learning that integrates with classroom learning
- ✓ We will continue to focus on strategic priorities in three primary arenas: student learning; educators; and system alignment

- ✓ IDOE knows that action happens locally and will continue for forge strong relationships and ongoing communications between the state office and locals schools

Announcements

- Lisa Daugherty, President/CEO of the Center of Workforce Innovations (CWI), announced that Shaun Sahlhoff of CWI will be working closely with READY NWI educators on both labor market information and on connecting employers and educators – the Northwest Indiana Workforce Development Board supports industry sector groups in Healthcare and Manufacturing in addition to an ongoing relationship with Construction/Building Trades – Shaun can be contacted as ssahlhoff@cwicorp.com
- Danni Mancusi-Shreve gave an update on progress with the Work Ethic Certificate for this school year, and she encouraged all schools to keep up with reporting of student progress and to stay in touch with her – Danni can be contacted at dmancusishreve@cwicorp.com
- Barb Grimsgard presented information on this year’s Construction & Building Trades Day which will be back to being a physical rather than virtual event this year – additional information can be obtained on the READY NWI website (www.readiwni.com) or by contacting Barb at bgrimsgard@cwicorp.com
- The next few READY NWI Education Team meetings will include presentations that were originally planned for the postponed Summer Institute, making the September through November meetings a “serial retreat” to cover priorities that were identified by our Team at the end of last year

Adjournment & Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Next meeting will be ***Thursday, October 21, 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.***

And agenda will be sent out about a week in advance. We will continue on our Third Thursday schedule for the remainder of the school year with meetings continuing as virtual until further notice.

Please contact ***Beki Vogelpohl*** (rvogelpohl@cwicorp.com) if you have questions or comments, updates on members to be added or deleted, or ideas for content for our meetings for this school year.