



Champion Report

Theme Area: Education and Workforce Development

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REPORTING PERIOD: September 13-December 13, 2016

Goals/Strategies or Action Steps:	What NEW success have you had in moving your theme goals forward over the reporting period?
<p>????</p>	<p>Disability Employment Initiative (DEI)</p> <p>The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) has been awarded a \$2.5 million, 42 month Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) grant from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) for the purpose of linking MN youth with disabilities to gainful employment through individualized needs assessment and comprehensive services such as career planning, postsecondary career education, systems linkages and service coordination, and other promising practices.</p> <p>Rural Minnesota CEP, Inc. is one of the recipients of this grant award.</p> <p>165,000 per year for three-year duration</p> <p>Project Objectives:</p> <p>The specific objectives of MN DEI are to demonstrate practices that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen partnerships and strategically align youth and adult career pathways systems to effectively serve youth with disabilities through multiple entry and exit points; • Build capacity of WDA staff to support at least 300 youth with disabilities to participate in career pathways system using the Guideposts for Success best practices framework and an Integrated Resource Team (IRT) approach; • Utilize innovative intergenerational family support approach to promote successful outcomes for youth with disabilities participating in career pathways system and programs; • Implement specific strategies to address the state’s employment gap for individuals from diverse cultures; and • Increase the state’s number of employment networks (ENs) and the number of Social Security disability beneficiaries participating in career pathways programs.
<p>???</p>	<p>RC3 – Rural Career Counselor Coordination – Annual Report to the MN Legislature.</p> <p>In partnership and collaboration, the Workforce Development Boards of Rural Minnesota CEP, Inc. (RMCEP) will provide services to WSA 1 (Northwest PIC) and WSA 2 (RMCEP) related to coordinating career counseling efforts in the West Central and Northwest regions of Minnesota. These two entities currently develop and oversee the Workforce Development strategies in 26 counties. As a partner in the Minnesota Workforce System RMCEP will successfully carry out the goals of the Minnesota Rural Career Counseling Coordinator (RC3) initiative.</p>

	<p>The main responsibilities and purpose of the grant are to improve coordination and communication of workforce development programs and services within Workforce Development Areas and with administering agencies.</p> <p>Report Objectives and Activities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) understanding the needs of existing, new, and prospective service area businesses in regard to workforce development programs, resources, and other services; (2) connecting job seekers, secondary and higher education institutions, employers, and other stakeholders and partners; (3) providing services to job seekers including career counseling, training, and work experience opportunities; (4) assessing and compiling information about all workforce development programs and services offered in the assigned workforce service area, including adult basic education programs and programs and services at higher education institutions and kindergarten through grade 12 schools; (5) making recommendations to the commissioner regarding ways to improve career counseling coordination, possible program changes, and new workforce programs or initiatives; (6) sharing best practices and collaborating with other career counseling coordinators to promote and enable state-level coordination among workforce development programs and administering agencies including, but not limited to, the DEED, Education, and Labor and Industry, and the Office of Higher Education; (7) promoting available workforce development and career counseling programs and resources in the workforce service area.
EW1A	<p>Workforce Development</p> <p>CLC is participating in a state-wide review and redevelopment of an enterprise model of customized training to enhance support and training to our workforce across Minnesota. The model will enhance our ability to meet local workforce needs by building on existing relationships and programs and drawing from programs in other regions of the state.</p>
EW2E	<p style="text-align: center;">Guaranteed Transfer Pathways</p> <p>Media Release For immediate release: November 2016 Media contact: Jessie Perrine, Communications Coordinator, 218-855-8131 jperrine@clcmn.edu</p> <p>Central Lakes College students who complete the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum and earn a minimum 2.0 GPA* in an Associate of Arts (AA) degree are now guaranteed admission to every one of the seven Minnesota State universities with junior year status.</p> <p>Under a new program announced today by Minnesota State, all students from any Minnesota State college who meet those requirements are guaranteed admission to Minnesota State universities. This new collaboration ensures that students can seamlessly and reliably transfer from Minnesota State colleges to Minnesota State universities.</p> <p>“While our colleges and universities have always partnered to provide students with outstanding opportunities, this guarantee takes the commitment to a new level. It underscores the fact that we are united in our commitment to ensuring that all Minnesotans have access to an outstanding education right here within the Minnesota State system,” said president Hara Charlier.</p> <p>This guarantee ensures that college is affordable for families. Students can take</p>

	<p>advantage of the lower tuition rates at Minnesota State colleges for their freshman and sophomore years, then transfer to a Minnesota State university to complete their bachelor’s degree. Tuition and fees at a Minnesota State college are significantly lower – between one-half and one-tenth the cost – of other higher education options within the state.</p> <p>While students who complete the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum and earn an Associate of Arts (AA) degree from any of the 26 Minnesota State community colleges are guaranteed admission and full credit transfer to any of the seven Minnesota State universities, this collaboration does not guarantee admittance to specific majors. Academic requirements for major degree programs at state universities vary. For this reason, students considering credit transfer should discuss their academic goals with an advisor at the state university they wish to attend.</p> <p>*Winona State University requires a minimum 2.4 GPA for AA degrees to be accepted.</p>
EW3	<p>CLC to hold job training workshop By BRAINERD DISPATCH on Nov 30, 2016 at 10:42 p.m.</p> <p>Central Lakes College is holding a free Tools for Transition training from 5:30-7 p.m. Dec. 8 at the CLC cafeteria, Brainerd campus. The training is open to anyone, but is geared toward high school special education teachers, county service providers, collegiate disabilities providers and area professionals who support individuals with disabilities.</p> <p>Included in the training is a conversation on how to use the Secondary Transition Planning process, the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act and the Minnesota Olmstead Plan to assist students with disabilities in gaining needed skills for competitive integrated employment.</p> <p>Speakers include Jayne Spain, Minnesota Department of Education secondary transition specialist and Alyssa Klein, Department of Employment and Economic Development transition specialist.</p> <p>Register by Dec. 4 by contacting Amanda Small at asmall@clcmn.edu or at 218-855-8175.</p>
EW2C	<p>CLC Hosts Business Roundtable</p> <p>CLC hosted a Chancellor’s Business Roundtable discussion this fall. Brainerd Lakes Area business, educational and workforce leaders met with Chancello Steven Rosenstone and president Hara Charlier to discuss the unique workforce needs of the area. Topics such as the skills gap, interest gap, workplace readiness, and business and industry partnerships were discussed. A subgroup will continue to meet in an effort to generate collaborative solutions to this ongoing challenge.</p>
Action Step EW1C	<p>PRESS RELEASE NJPA Invites Businesses, Schools to Conversation to Address Workforce Gaps</p> <p>Staples, Minn., 5 December 2016 – Local business owners, managers, school and college personnel, and community members are encouraged to attend the National Joint Powers Alliance® <i>Building the 21st Century Workforce Conference</i> to collaborate in college and career readiness activities on Friday, December 16 at NJPA’s Staples location. The event is free and includes lunch.</p>

	<p>NJPA Education Consultant and event coordinator Bart Graves says there is a gap in the Region 5 workforce between skills needed and skills available, and sees this as an opportunity for professionals on both sides of the issue to come together and develop creative solutions.</p> <p>“We want to look at this from the business side and from the education side and see how we can pull things together to help students make career choices that meet the labor demands in our region,” Graves said.</p> <p>He’s particularly looking for attendees that represent the areas of high demand in the Region 5 workforce: agriculture, energy, transportation, manufacturing, robotics, culinary arts, and health care.</p> <p>“We’re trying to bring more businesses in for this conference and have discussions by industry,” Graves explained. “We want to know the needs of the workforce and how we can address them.”</p> <p>The conference will open with a brief presentation, <i>The Automated Workforce</i>, by Kristi Westbrook, Chief Operating Officer at Consolidated Telecommunications Company (CTC) in Brainerd.</p> <p>Updates from area programs and post-secondary institutions from across the state will follow, providing a better understanding of what’s currently being done to address the workforce gap, and what resources are available.</p> <p>In the afternoon, attendees will divide into career cluster collaboration meetings – small groups organized by industry and comprised of educators, program directors, and employers – to discuss best practices, challenges, partnership opportunities, and regional program planning.</p> <p>“We hope local business and educators will come with ideas for planning, and that this will help build off what’s currently available, plus provide a way for people to get more involved,” Graves said. “We want to set area students up for success; get them started in a good job, get them started in a training program, or set up with a mentor.”</p> <p>For information and registration, visit www.njpacoop.org/edregistration, or contact Bart Graves at 320-349-0161.</p>
<p>Action Step EW2G</p>	<p>NJPA awarded two schools in Region 5 with funding and support to become High Reliability Schools (HRS). HRS was framed out of the Marzano Research Center, which NJPA has partnered with to offer the training necessary to become certified. Here is the announcement stating the two Region 5 schools who were chosen to become demonstration sites –</p> <p>NJPA Education Solutions is excited and honored to announce two future High Reliability School Demonstration Sites. Walker-Hackensack-Akeley and Verndale have demonstrated a commitment to growth and continuous improvement and are excited to embark upon a rigorous journey to deeply develop the components of an effective school including: a safe and collaborative culture, effective teaching in every classroom, a guaranteed and viable curriculum, standards-referenced reporting, and competency-based education.</p>
	<p>Work continues with formulating a regional scope / plan that would outline and align services with a Cradle to Career model. A more formal structure should be forthcoming, possibly by the next champions meeting.</p>
	<p>M State update:</p>

- recently adopted **HealthForce Minnesota's Health Care Core Curriculum (HCCC)**. This course has been added to our College's official catalog and is being used in one pilot school district this fall. The HCCC can be taught as a stand-alone course or along with the state approved Nursing Assistant course. Our pilot district is using both sets of curriculum in tandem.
- working diligently to **increase the Nursing Assistant pathway and healthcare career awareness with our regional partners.**
- **exploring multi-institution collaborations** to leverage the use of the Health Care Core Curriculum in Region 5.
- **Three M State programs were awarded the Bridges Workshop Grant.** Marine Engine Technology, Architectural Technology and Surgical Technology will all host independent program-based, hands-on workshops for the students of Region 5. These workshops will take place in the spring of 2017.
- **A new Supervisory Leadership certificate program is helping to train employers' newly promoted supervisors/leaders.** This program is designed to provide training and further education for an existing employee who has been moved to a supervisory position in an organization. The transition from colleague to supervisor can be a challenging one, and additional training and education can pave the way for a better transition for the employee and employer. The program can be delivered using flexible delivery or traditional delivery modes to meet the specific needs of an employer and employee group. Program instructors collaborate with the employer to ensure that the curriculum is infused with activities and information that are relevant to that industry.
- **Rural MnCEP, M State, CLC, Bridges, and NJPA are partnering to develop a survey that will be given to high school students to determine the impact of college and career readiness services.** This collaboration is part of an effort to use data in the decision making, program development and program continuous improvement processes.