



Jobs and Workforce Development Workgroup Minutes

October 23, 2024, 1:30PM – 3:00PM

Boone Electric Community Building (1413 Rangeline, Columbia MO) and virtually via Zoom

BOONE COUNTY
UPWARD MOBILITY

Attendees: Alvin Cobbins (Minority Men’s Network), Liz Sensintaffar (Job Point), Tara Shade (Woodhaven), Lisa Driskel-Hawxby (Regional Economic Development Inc. (REDI)), Jennifer Delaporte (Columbia Public Schools (CPS)), Nancy Ragsdale (CPS), Miles Gibson (First Last Mile), Brandon Russell (CPS), Meagan Weaver (Moberly Area Community College (MACC)), Beatrice Stewart (Flourish), Ross Henry (First Last Mile), Brooklyn Hill (Central Missouri Community Action (CMCA)), Conrad Hake (Love Columbia), Gina Jenkins (Boone County Community Services Department (BCCSD)), Emilio Ayala Youngblood (BCCSD), Kerby Webb (BCCSD), Verna Laboy (BCCSD)

Meeting Objective: Continue to strategize Youth Focused Action Steps

1. Welcome and Introductions

Al began the meeting and opened the floor for introductions.

2. Action Step Assessment: Pipeline/Career Opportunities for Youth

a. (Action step #9) Increase opportunities to expose youth to careers in middle and high school.

- Group members discussed:
 - Updating who needs to do what work towards the success of action step #9.
 - Ways of communicating to business partners to strengthen the outreach.
 - Ways that all the people at the table can help each other to grow their impact.
 - Organizations absent from the table and where they would fit.
 - Possibly splitting up the strategy based on the difference between middle school and high school efforts. Middle school should be knowledge focused and high school should be experience focused.
 - Some ideas that were brought by this brainstorming included: Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs), campaigning using student stories and stories of the key stakeholders, maintaining the 1:2:7 modern economics ratio, and connecting students with lived experience in their interested profession.

b. (Action step #10) Expand opportunities for high school students to earn associate degrees for all Boone County schools.

- Due to time constraints, the group was not able to discuss this action step.

c. (Action Step #16) Identify and support youth earlier in their academic career to graduate or access alternative paths to high school graduation.

- Due to time constraints, the group was not able to discuss this action step.

3. Closing



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a. Partner Updates

- Due to time constraints, the group was unable to complete this agenda item.

b. Summarize next steps

- Due to time constraints, the group was unable to complete this agenda item.

c. Comments and Questions

- Due to time constraints, the group was unable to complete this agenda item.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 1:30 – 3:00PM, Boone Electric Community Building or virtually [via Zoom](#).