

Notes from RCEW Regional Youth Employment Strategy Work Group
Subcommittee #3

In Attendance: Larry Kreyling, Jim McHugh, Keith McNames, Leslie Caldwell, Russ Signorino, Wayne Flesch

Three main action points were planned to address needs:

- Recruit businesses not only at corporate level but middle and small businesses and focus on areas by school districts. Ways to recruit is through chambers, Missouri Career Centers, and committee members. Also become involved with the North County and Southwest Business Partnerships groups as well as St. Charles Business Partnership. These groups work with businesses and school districts in their area and provide various programs throughout the school year, such as Sophomore Career Fair, Ethics Seminars, Job Fairs and Business recognition ceremonies. Identify other organizations providing job fairs for collaboration. Establish relationship with Westfield regarding retail-training center. Consider a model for traveling job fairs to high schools.
- Information about workforce needs presented to businesses, educators and parents. Team with subcommittee on parent involvement for presentations to PTO's, 8th grade transition conferences, A+ Coordinators, churches, and organizations. Parents often have unrealistic expectations for children and are not familiar with opportunities other than where they are employed. Educators are not aware of skills, like work ethics, that students need to obtain a position or information about career development process. Business partner attending these workshops/sessions brings credibility from real world.
- Consider innovative ways to provide youth employment. Traveling job fairs, partnering with other organizations that provide job fairs, job shadowing that could work into internships, business/partnership programs that would include employment opportunities for youth participants. Virtual job fair provided through one-stops based on zip codes could be developed. Include special needs students for accessibility to job fairs and employment opportunities.