



NORTHERN KENTUCKY Education Council

Broader Partnerships

Bolder Goals

Better Data

Bigger Outcomes

2016 ACTION TEAM FALL QUARTERLY REPORT

Northern Kentucky is working collectively to develop and implement effective, innovative strategies that will ensure all youth are ready for college, career and life. The six volunteer Action Teams of the Council facilitate the strategic alignment of educational initiatives and programs that help accomplish regional education goals. Through these teams, education, business and community leaders are working together on measurable strategies that address needs along the pipeline from birth to career.

Action Team 1: Reducing Barriers to Student Learning

Regional Goal: NKY will ensure successful transition for every child and student along the continuum from birth through career

*Co-Chairs: Tammy Weidinger, Brighton Center
Dr. Shelli Wilson, Campbell County School District*

- Action Team 1 Co-Chairs and Subcommittee Co-Chairs determined that the subcommittees would begin to meet as a combined, single action team for strategies related to this goal, which will help to provide better integration of work. United Way of Greater Cincinnati/NKY will continue to serve as the leader for work related to kindergarten readiness in the region.
- Action Team 1, in partnership with the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, United Way of Greater Cincinnati, the Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services, presented "Why Early Childhood?" on September 27th at the St. Elizabeth Training and Education Center. Over 70 leaders from the education, business and community attended the event, which included a keynote address by Nicki Patton Rowe.
- 21 NKY schools participated in the Me and My School project this summer, with 97% of parents responding they are likely or very likely to recommend the program to others. Parents reported they were more comfortable sending their child to school (97%) and indicated that their child is less anxious about going to school after attending this program (94%).
- Regional efforts to develop a clear brand and messaging strategy to increase demand for high-quality, full-day preschool began with a kick-off meeting in October.
- Bornlearning Communities pilot was launched this summer in City Heights to help create a pathway to the traditional school-based program by reducing barriers and meeting families where they are, in natural communities.
- Pre-K Works Video launched: <https://youtu.be/remlUzQ0lok>.
- Two summer learning program tours were conducted in July, highlighting the Me and My School program at Lindeman Elementary, and the Upspring program at Caywood Elementary.
- Chronic absenteeism data for the end of the 2015-16 school year is being collected and analyzed by the 9 partner schools to identify correlation with other identified data points.
- Leaders from four NKY school districts (Boone County, Campbell County, Erlanger-Elsmere and Williamstown) met with Dr. Rich Gilman from Cincinnati Children's Hospital and Medical Center

to provide feedback related to the Northern Kentucky Resiliency Poll, which measures the hope, engagement and well-being of students in grades 3-12. Campbell County Schools polled students in late September, and the remaining districts will begin polling students October 17th.

Action Team 2: College and Career Readiness

Regional Goal: Academic rigor and relevance of the curricula in NKY P-20 schools will meet student educational career goals and employment needs in the community.

Co-Chairs: Dr. Karen Cheser, Boone County School District

Dr. Christy Petroze, Thomas More College

- Held two convenings in July at Boone County High School and Highlands High School, in partnership with Action Team 5 (Business Engagement), on the Kentucky Unbridled Careers platform to increase student career exploration and internships, as well as business engagement in schools. Developed and distributed a Quick Start Guide for businesses to provide information on the platform.
- Continued planning on how to gather survey data related to STEAM activities in the region.
- Promoted FIRST LEGO League teams at informational session at the Ralph Rush Professional Development Center on September 21st.
- As a result of discussions on how to better promote early college/dual credit programs at local high schools, began planning the NKY College and Career Readiness Symposium, which will be held on November 29th at Northern Kentucky University.

Action Team 3: Educator Excellence

Regional Goal: Educators in NKY meet or exceed national standards for educator excellence.

Co-Chairs: Dr. Kathy Burkhardt, Erlanger-Elsmere Independent School District

Amy Razor, Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services

Dr. Cindy Reed, Northern Kentucky University

- Co-chairs met to consider how to best align Action Team 3 with the Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services and the NKU Center for Education Excellence. Leaders determined that in lieu of holding separate action team meetings, the work of NKCES and the NKU Center for Educator Excellence serves as the work to achieve this regional education goal.
- NKCES launched the Vander Ark Next Generation Learning Sessions as part of the "Smart Schools: Focus on Next Generation Learning Series" to provide an opportunity for school teams to strengthen knowledge and partnerships as active learners, and to prepare students as 21st Century Learners.
- NKCES presented at the Kentucky Continuous Improvement Summit to highlight current work with the NKY Professional Learning Communities, as our region builds capacity to support educators as learners, provides effective communication and responds to the needs of PLC members.
- NKCES Professional Learning Consortium continues to meet to network on common areas, share resources and plan together.
- NKU College of Education and Human Services announced its 2016 December Think Tank featuring Dr. Crystal Laura, who will address the current sociopolitical context of education for young black students.

Action Team 4: Education Accessibility and Lifelong Learning

Regional Education Goal: NKY has system and outreach programs to make educational opportunities available, accessible and affordable to every community member, no matter what age.

Co-Chairs: Dr. Vicki Berling, Sullivan University
Dave Schroeder, Kenton County Public Library

- Disseminated poverty action kit to engage businesses and community members to take action to reduce poverty in Northern Kentucky; action kit includes key statistics that identify the impact of poverty on the region, as well as resources and volunteer opportunities. The Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce made the kit available at the State of the Region Eggs n' Issues in September, and the Life Learning Center is distributing this kit at all monthly Lunch and Learns for the Center.
- Identified partners who will continue providing poverty simulations to engage community members and increase awareness of the impact of poverty.
- Held several discussions with action team members to identify strategies related to increasing education accessibility and lifelong learning for adults. Determined that the team will focus on providing information on career pathways and credentials needed for key regional industries, and will partner with identified businesses on this effort.

Action Team 5: Business Involvement and Service Learning

Regional Goal: NKY is recognized for culture of contribution, through service learning in schools and full engagement of business community in schools.

Co-Chairs: Dr. Ron Livingood, Grant County Schools
Dr. Jean Loftus, Loftus Surgery

- Partnered with Action Team 2 (College and Career Readiness) to hold convenings on the Kentucky Unbridled Careers platform. Distributed Quick Start Guide to businesses to help provide company information on the platform.
- Continued development of NKY Work Competencies Toolkit, which will replace the Work Ethic Diploma. This toolkit will support schools in developing soft skills for all students in Northern Kentucky. Coordinating with the NKY Chamber of Commerce to identify a design sponsor for this toolkit, and to align the branding of this toolkit with the Business Engagement Toolkit.
- Data was collected on business engagement tours held in Spring 2016. Identified potential additional tours for Fall 2016, including Longbranch, River Ridge, and Yealey Elementary Schools and Dixie Heights High School.

Action Team 6: Advocacy

Regional Goal: All education institutions in NKY have the financial resources and program alignment necessary to support the needs of the region.

Co-Chairs: Dr. Anthony Strong, Pendleton County School District
Mike Hammons, Children, Inc.

- Hosted presentation by Kentucky Center for Economic Policy on the state budget and its impact on education at the NKY Chamber of Commerce on June 15th. Action Team 6/NKEAT

members as well as representatives from the NKYEC Board and the NKY Chamber of Commerce Business Advisory Council attended the presentation.

- Held presentation by the NKY Smoke Free Coalition during the regular September NKEAT meeting and discussed smoke free campuses.
- Began planning for the Action Team 6/NKEAT reception with NKY Caucus members later this fall.



The Northern KY Education Council is an agency partner of UWGC. NKY is a Ready by 21 Community.