



NORTHERN KENTUCKY Education Council

Broader Partnerships

Bolder Goals

Better Data

Bigger Outcomes

2016-17 ACTION TEAM WINTER 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*

- An Early Childhood Workforce Committee was created by United Way Success by 6 and community partners to strengthen the pipeline for early childhood careers. Subcommittees formed to address the following: expansion of early childhood career pathways; systemic issues related to the number of qualified candidates available in the workforce; and higher education support of high school programs and early childhood education partner efforts.
- Pre-K Works and Success by 6 completed Phase I of the regional Early Childhood Branding Project, which entailed a three-hour facilitated discussion with 60 different community stakeholders and partners on aligning values around four core strategies. Phase II has begun and 40 parent interviews will be conducted in four communities (both urban and rural).
- Three partner schools are analyzing chronic absenteeism data (from the 2015-16 school year) to identify correlation with other identified data points.
- Began discussions on how to provide regional support for grant and financial requests related to summer learning programming, and will focus on addressing gaps in funding and programming.
- The NKY Resiliency Poll was administered October-November 2016 in the following school districts: Boone County, Campbell County, Erlanger-Elsmere, and Williamstown. Students in grades 3-12 participated in the poll that measured their hope, engagement and well-being. Dr. Richard Gilman provided student poll data to each of the participating districts, and is compiling regional level data for the NKY Education Council.

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 the NKY College and Career Readiness Symposium at Northern Kentucky University on November 29th, which featured Tom Welch and Kris Kimel as keynote speakers. Attendees also received

information on dual credit/early college, college admissions, regional industry sectors, career coaching best practices/NaviGo, the keys to developing college and career ready skills, and career and technical education.

- Continued conversations with partners on how to align STEAM activities in the region through a STEAM asset map process, and alignment of related industry initiatives.
- Began planning for the NKY EdCamp, which will occur on March 25th, 2017.

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*

- 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. Districts came together and participated in a book study, ongoing Voxer discussions and a one-day workshop.
- 171 Northern Kentucky Teachers attended a Kagan Cooperative Learning Strategies Tour. Cooperative Learning Strategies are proven to boost academics, close the achievement gap, improve student relations, and create a more kind and caring school community.
- NKCES has established a precedent for regional Professional Learning Communities (PLC) work, which is a current regional priority for the year. Current regional PLCs include: Physical Education, Arts and Humanities, School Psychologists, and World Language and Instructional Coaches.
- NKCES provided training, support and resources to new teachers in the region by offering a yearlong New Teacher PLC. Session topics include: Diverse Learning, Classroom Management, Instructional Strategies, Collaborating with School and Community, and Connecting with Parents and Families.
- NKU's College of Education and Human Services, in partnership with NKU's Division of Student Affairs and Office of Inclusive Excellence, offered its fourth Think Tank on December 1st and 2nd, featuring Dr. Crystal Laura, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy at Chicago State University. The keynote address and workshop offered important personal and research-based insights on how schools and communities can better meet the needs of students, particularly African American male 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*

- The Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce featured a profile story related to the Poverty Action Kit in its *NKY Business Journal*.
- Continued discussions with action team members to identify strategies related to increasing education accessibility through providing information on career pathways and credentials needed for key regional industries.
- Planned a visit to the Cengage Learning facilities to better understand training and educational supports provided to employees by the company.

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*

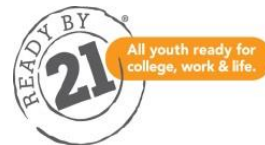
- Continued development of NKY Work Ready Skills Toolkit, which will replace the Work Ethic Diploma. This toolkit will support schools in developing soft skills for all students in Northern Kentucky. C-Forward agreed to serve as the design sponsor for this toolkit and for brand alignment with the Business Engagement Toolkit.
- Collected data on business engagement with Business Engagement Toolkit program partners.
- Began planning for a business engagement tour at River Ridge Elementary, which will occur on January 24th, 2017. Met with Woodfill Elementary and Hinsdale Elementary to discuss potential business engagement tours for Spring 2017. Other interested schools include: Boone County High School, Camp Ernst Middle School, Dixie Heights High School, Longbranch Elementary, Stephens Elementary, Tichenor Middle School, and Yealey Elementary.

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.*

- Cory Curl (Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence) presented: *The Implications of the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act on Education in Kentucky* during the regular November NKEAT meeting.
- Held the NKEAT Legislative Reception on December 14th (hosted by Central Bank) to foster relationships with our local elected officials and legislators.
- Continued communications with partner organizations across the state to identify potential education issues in the upcoming 2017 Kentucky State Legislative session.



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