

2017 SPRING QUARTERLY ACTION TEAM 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*

- Success by 6 is distributing 2,500 kindergarten kits this spring in 14 school districts to homes with 3-4 year old children. The kits include developmental milestone information, district-specific contact information for preschool and kindergarten registration, along with age-appropriate readiness activities.
- Pre-K Works advocated for quality early childhood education policies with key legislators during the 2017 Kentucky State Legislature session.
- Convened 100 educators, administrators and community partners for the "Fostering Resilient Learners" presentation by Kristin Souers on February 1st at St. Elizabeth Technology and Education Center. Participants learned about strategies for creating a trauma sensitive classroom.
- Key action team leaders reviewed kindergarten readiness and summer learning data to determine strategies on increasing financial resources for quality summer learning programs.
- Initiated a Read On! Demonstration Site with Southgate Independent Schools, where action team members and partner organizations will provide support to the school district for kindergarten readiness, summer learning, reducing chronic absenteeism, and increasing grade level reading and math. Action team members agreed to provide assistance with a book drive to provide all Southgate students with a "Box of Books" for summer learning.

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 fourth annual NKY Edcamp on March 25th at Lloyd Memorial High School. Over 300 educators and community members participated in the “unconference”.
- Reviewed suggested action steps and activities generated at the NKY College and Career Readiness Symposium for inclusion with current action team work.
- Hosted a joint Action Team 2 and 4 meeting on March 1st at the NKY Workforce Investment Board offices, where Janice Urbanik (Partners for a Competitive Workforce) presented data on closing our region's skills gap.

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 led a session on “Explicit Instruction” with Anita Archer on January 5th-6th, which addressed effective methodology for teaching academic skills.
- NKCES hosted “Better Conversation” with Tricia Skyles on February 13th-14th at Gateway Community and Technical College, which provided educators with insights on improving professional performance, job satisfaction, and classroom instruction.
- NKCES partnered with the NKY Association for Gifted Educators and Northern Kentucky University for the 2017 Dreamfest on March 9th at Northern Kentucky University, which provided enrichment for 800 students (grades 4-8) from 16 public school districts.
- NKCES partnered with the NKYEC Action Team 2 for the 2017 NKY Edcamp on March 25th at Lloyd High School.
- NKU's College of Education and Human Services is hosting Jessica Lynch, a former Private First Class in the United States Army and a former Prisoner of War, for a keynote address on April 5th at Northern Kentucky University titled, “The Importance of Perseverance.” The corresponding Think Tank Session on April 6th features sessions on the topics of toxic stress, adverse childhood experiences, trauma-informed care and teaching. Hosted a special screening of Paper Tigers, a documentary on trauma-informed pedagogy in the afternoon.

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 Life Learning Center continued to distribute the NKY Poverty Action Kit during its monthly “Lunch and Learns”.
- Visited Cengage Learning facilities on January 23rd to better understand skills training and educational supports provided to employees by the company.

- Hosted a joint Action Team 2 and 4 meeting on March 1st at the NKY Workforce Investment Board offices, where Janice Urbanik (Partners for a Competitive Workforce) presented data on closing our region's skills gap.

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 (retired)
Dr. Jean Loftus, Loftus Surgery*

- Held a Business Engagement Tour at River Ridge Elementary on January 24th, with 45 business and community leaders attending to learn about engaging with students through key programs at the school.
- Completed the development and graphic design of the NKY 21st Century 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 served as the design sponsor for this toolkit and brand alignment with the Business Engagement Toolkit.
- Distributed KY Unbridled Careers Quick Start Guide at NKY Chamber Board of Directors meeting on March 22nd for business engagement with the online platform.

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.*

- Identified key issues for 2017 Kentucky State Legislative session and promoted communications with local elected officials on these issues.
- Advocated on issues related to adequate funding and charter schools at the NKY Legislative Caucus Forum on February 11th at Northern Kentucky University.
- Maintained communications with partner organizations across the state on relevant education issues during the 2017 Kentucky State Legislative session, and shared updates with action team members.



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