

GROW NKY

Growing Regional Outcomes through Workforce



GROW NKY: College & Career Readiness Update for NKCES Board March 2021 Report

GROW NKY is a strategic workforce collective comprised of leaders across key industries, educational institutions and community organizations working collaboratively to leverage the region's assets to grow, attract and retain a globally competitive workforce. The Northern Kentucky Chamber serves as the backbone organization leading the strategic workforce collective. GROW NKY focuses on five key areas of workforce development, following a cradle-to-career model. The College & Career Readiness (CCR) focus of GROW NKY continues to align the work of partners in the College & Career Readiness space including NKY school districts, post-secondary institutions, industry sector organizations and businesses, and non-profit/community organizations.

The overall College & Career Readiness goal for NKY is to increase the percentage of students who meet one or more KDE college or career readiness measures by the end of 2021.

4 key objective goals established by P2 partners include:

- 1) Awareness of high-need, high-growth NKY careers
- 2) Increasing work-based learning (WBL) experiences for ALL students
- 3) Strength-finding and planning for all students
- 4) Increasing participation in dual credit, both transfer and career, and technical programs

GROW NKY is seeking additional engagement from school districts/superintendents as progress on these goals is being reviewed to ensure they continue to align with desired outcomes for NKY students. Those interested are asked to connect with Amanda Johannemann at the NKY Chamber.

Based on barriers brought to the attention of GROW NKY CCR partners, representing what most often impacts student engagement in work-based learning experiences, two funding proposals have been submitted to address transportation barriers faced by students and equitable access to experiences by all students across the region.

Objective 1 partners developed and launched a student survey in February to identify the current level of knowledge among students of high demand careers/industry sectors in the region. To date, nearly 800 NKY students have completed the survey. The deadline for input is March 30th. With this information, regional partners can direct focus on filling the gaps in career-focused information. The survey asks students the following (among other questions): What are the five in-demand careers in the region? Where are students on what they know and what they would like to discover about career paths? Where do students receive information from? Do students have a go-to resource for this information? Are students aware of the classes needed to prep for in-demand careers? Etc. Survey outcomes will be available and shared in the Spring.

Junior Achievement is currently recruiting employers for a virtual career fair that will be held this in the spring for K-5 students across area elementary schools. If you would like additional information on participation for your K-5 schools, please connect with Angie Smith at JA.

**See report on College & Career Connector, Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator and MyCareerE3 platform for update on Work-Based Learning objective.

The GSE (Governor's School for Entrepreneurs) program closed its application process at the end of January and has shared there's a great showing of students from NKY high schools. Thanks to expanded funding from the State, there will be two cohorts of students this summer at NKU and GSE is hoping to secure additional funds that will add an additional 10-12 NKY students to the cohorts.

The objective goal and strategies to increase participation in dual credit, both transfer and career, and technical programs were brought to postsecondary partners (TMU and NKU) by Teri VonHandorf at GCTC for review and input. One item being added following this input is a strategy to address the matriculation rate of dual credit students. Partners will meet on March 11 and will include Perkins partners made up of HS principals and those that work with Perkins funding. The objective team will be working to organize a landscape map of dual credit opportunities being offered – specifically the transfer (gen ed) and technical opportunities/pathways and have these noted in one location. This tool will identify the various classes that will be available; who offers them and when; etc. and be used with counselors as they explore pathway programs and dual credit offerings; as well as addressing and identifying the true cost to students for dual credit courses. Transportation for dual credit students is also a barrier that needs to be on the radar of the team of partners.