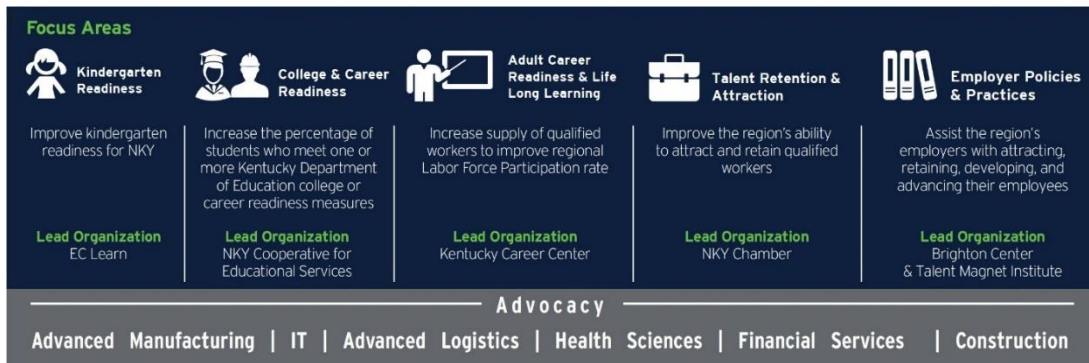


GROW NKY

Growing Regional Outcomes through Workforce



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

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 aligns 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. Each month, an update is provided by partners engaged in the GROW NKY collective, under the leadership of the NKCES, on the strategies & outcomes contributing to the regional goal. Over 75 partners are engaged in the College & Career Readiness focus area of GROW NKY.

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) Increase awareness of high-need, high-growth NKY careers
- 2) Increase work-based learning (WBL) experiences for ALL students
- 3) Through identifying talents and passions, increase student post-graduation plans
- 4) Increase participation in dual credit general education and career and technical programs

April 2021 Updates

- GROW NKY continues to seek 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.
- Monthly meetings continue to be held with college & career counselors from NKY high schools to share updates related to student connections to Work-Based Learning opportunities. Meetings are hosted by the NKY College & Career Connector and Kentucky Youth

Apprenticeship Coordinator (focused on healthcare) ****See monthly KYAP and College & Career Connector report for specific updates on WBL and MyCareerE3**

- Based on barriers brought to the attention of GROW NKY CCR partners, representing what most often impacts student engagement in work-based learning experiences, funding has been awarded by OneNKY Alliance to GROW NKY to support transportation needs related to students accessing work-based learning experiences and regional assessments on students' strengths & aptitudes as it relates to identified in-demand industry sectors and career pathways.
- GROW NKY partners including the NKY Chamber, NKCES and NKWIB are working together on the distribution of Essential Skills Certificates for 3500 NKY students from the class of 2021. The Essential Skills Certificate identifies and defines the Essential Skills that Kentucky students need to succeed in the workplace.
- The Northern Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (NKWIB) is responsible for administering workforce development funds for the eight-county Northern Kentucky Area Development District region. Following the guidelines of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the NKWIB has prepared the draft Northern Kentucky Workforce Development Area Local and Regional Plan for 2022-2025 that is available for public review and comment.
<https://nkcareercenter.org/plan2021/>
- On May 5, the [Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce](#) and [Northern Kentucky Education Council](#) will honor the region's outstanding educators, community partners and business leaders whose steadfast commitment to education was essential in a year unlike any other at the 2021 Excellence in Education Celebration.
- Scholarship opportunities were shared announced by CCR partners thru monthly College & Career Counselor meetings and via MyCareerE3 including –
 - Refugee Connect - <https://www.refugeeconnect.org/scholarships.html>
 - St. Elizabeth Healthcare Scholarship Program - <https://form.jotform.com/210565321575150?fbclid=IwAR1pVFKtXcmIcpDiZmdAltAlHX-Ili8K3DIHHciulEUPDOIzHMLG9xU74Sw>
 - Andy Neiheisel Scholarship is available to students pursuing careers in plumbing/construction
 - Vertner Woody Diverse Scholarship sponsored by A.L. Neyer is available for female & minority students pursuing careers in construction and entering the Enzweiler Building Institute
- The Cincinnati/NKY International Airport (CVG) was featured by the Kentucky Chamber Workforce Center in March via their Bus to Business program – a virtual career exploration/work-based learning experience for students.
- Skilled Trades Summer Camp was announced for students entering grades 9-12 with a focus on high demand career exploration in plumbing, welding, electrical, carpentry, and more. Camp is set for June 7-11 at The Center for Great Neighborhoods and hosted by CCR partners – Building Industry Association, NaviGo, A.L. Neyer and The Center for Great Neighborhoods. Deadline to apply is May 1.

- A team of partners focused on Career Awareness goal have sent a survey to all area high schools and received 1414 student responses. Once compiled, results will be shared across GROW NKY College & Career Readiness partners.
- MyCareerE3, a regional work-based learning platform to connect students and employers, continues to add WBL opportunities from local employers, community partners and employer collaboratives. Schools are being asked to encourage students to register with the platform and explore current available opportunities – both virtual and in-person.
- Look for an announcement in June regarding the newly launched KY Youth Apprenticeship program for Nurse Aides in partnership with St. Elizabeth Healthcare
- Paid I.T. Summer Internships with INTERalliance and its committed business partners can be accessed via MyCareerE3. The INTERalliance INTERnship program is an opportunity for students to work for some of the leading companies in the Greater Cincinnati IT industry. This program provides students with real-world work experience while still in high school, laying the foundation for countless opportunities throughout college and beyond. Students, parents or counselors can check out these internship opportunities at www.mycareere3.org - students can set up an account in this platform (monitored by their school) and apply for these paid internships.
- NKyFAME announced its selection of 12 advanced manufacturing apprentices for its 2021-2023 cohort. Apprentices in the NKyFAME registered apprenticeship program are sponsored by regional manufacturers. The education they will receive at Gateway Community & Technical College during their apprenticeship program will result in the attainment of multiple certificates and an associates degree. This newly sponsored, diverse group of men and women have been selected by L'Oreal, Crane Composites, Armor USA, Safran Landing Systems, Robert Bosch Automotive Steering, Krauss Maffei, Nucor Gallatin Steel and Tyson Foods.
- The Kenton County Public Library and Kentucky Career Center-NKY hosted the Young Adult and Teen Job Fair on March 30. The targeted group for this event is 16-24 who are looking for great employment opportunities. Approximately 35 youth attended the job fair and were able to connect with participating employers and community partners including: Riegler Blacktop, Kroger (Independence Store), Speedway, Mcdonalds, Walgreens, Amazon, Aristech Surfaces, Lowes, Waffle House, SwimSafe, Devou Park Golf & Event Center, Learning Grove, St. Elizabeth Healthcare, Culvers Florence, Encompass Healthcare, Red Lobster Florence, St. Charles Community; as well as NaviGo, Enzweiler Institute and Gateway Community & Technical College.
- The dual credit taskforce (working on Objective 4 goal of GROW NKY) held its first meeting in March and will be focusing on the following goal and strategies moving forward:
Goal: Increase participation in dual credit; General education and career and technical programs
 - Develop a landscape map of what dual credit opportunities the local post-secondary institutions are offering.
 - Use secondary school data to establish the baseline and goal for participation in transfer and career and technical education.
 - Identify barriers to students participating in dual credit and develop and implement a plan with appropriate partners to overcome.

- Identify barriers and opportunities for post-secondary to expand access and develop and implement a plan with appropriate partners to overcome.
- Increase matriculation rate of dual credit students to local post-secondary education institutions.