

# GROW NKY

Growing Regional Outcomes through Workforce



## GROW NKY: College & Career Readiness Update for NKCES Board May 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.**

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

May 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. Superintendents that are interested in getting involved and being a part of forthcoming metrics conversations within the GROW NKY collective model are asked to connect with Amanda Johannemann at the NKY Chamber.

- GROW NKY's College & Career Readiness (P2) direction setting team is comprised of the following partners who have agreed to work together towards a common set of regional goals:

NKCES (Lead Partner)  
The Health Collaborative  
Fort Thomas Independent Schools  
Northern Kentucky Education Council  
NKU  
NaviGo/Learning Grove  
Junior Achievement  
St. Elizabeth Healthcare  
Insight Partners  
Thomas More University  
STEP CG  
INTERalliance  
Campbell County Schools  
Supply Chain OKI  
KY Compact  
KY FAME

Gateway Community & Technical College  
Kentucky Youth Apprenticeship Program  
(NKCES)  
Brighton Center  
Taylor Career Strategies  
Kentucky Chamber Workforce Center/TPM  
AMIP (Advanced Manufacturing Industry  
Partnerships)  
KY Out of School Youth Alliance  
Boone County Schools/Ignite Institute  
Erlanger-Elsmere Independent Schools  
Covington Partners  
CVG  
Building Industry Association/Enzweiler  
Institute

- Monthly meetings are 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 platform**
- Supply Chain OKI (regional employer collaborative for supply chain & logistics industry) is connecting with other identified employer collaboratives across GROW NKY College & Career Readiness focus to explore an aligned effort to strengthen communication to NKY students about industry specific WBL opportunities and career pathway resources. This outreach will be coordinated with the NKY College & Career Connector team. Details to follow.
- GROW NKY partners including the NKY Chamber, NKCES and NKWIB worked together to have 3500 Essential Skills Certificates printed and distributed to NKY students in the Class of 2021. Thank you to Staples in Crescent Springs for providing an in-kind sponsorship of the certificates. The NKY Essential Workplace Ethics Certificate not only allows students to demonstrate their attainment of critical workplace skills, by documenting how many of our students are earning this credential, it also allows our region to demonstrate the growing capability of our workforce to meet employers' needs. One way our workforce is measured is through the Kentucky Work Ready Community certification. A Work Ready Community certification demonstrates to business and industry that the community is committed to providing the highly skilled workforce required in today's competitive global economy. Likewise, the partners involved are calling on employer partners to act on their need for these essential skills by offering interviews to

recipients of the Northern Kentucky Essential Workplace Ethics Certificate. By prioritizing candidates with this certification, local businesses can support those who have worked hard to earn it and encourage more students to seek it out.

- On May 5, the [Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce](#) and [Northern Kentucky Education Council](#) honored the region's outstanding educators, community partners and business leaders whose steadfast commitment to education at the 2021 Excellence in Education Celebration. Among the honorees, both Karen Cheser (Lifetime Achievement Award) and John Baines (Business Education Champion Award) were recognized and are both leading efforts within GROW NKY's CCR focus area.
- GROW NKY partners focused on increasing career awareness among students conducted a survey, and compiled input from 2203 students across 17 NKY area high schools to gauge their base knowledge of high demand careers in the region and how to access career pathway resources. [See attached for survey results.](#)
- The GROW NKY Metrics Committee met on 4/28 and is working on defining high-level, regional metrics that will go before the GROW NKY Steering Committee for review in May. These high-level metrics will serve as the umbrella under which the Pillar Teams will refine/strengthen their plans of work, as well as provide a framework for how we can better align efforts across the region through shared outcomes.
- AMIP (Advanced Manufacturing Industry Partnership) is seeking input from employer partners, community partners and education partners on how best to provide resources and opportunities for talent pipeline develop in the manufacturing industry. School districts interested in providing input can visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2PL9VT9> by May 7th.
- On Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 9-10 AM - GROW NKY: Workforce Wednesday will feature MyCareerE3 and NKY College & Career Connections. Workforce Wednesday is a virtual gathering organized by GROW NKY aimed at connecting partners across our workforce ecosystem and increasing awareness of programs and initiatives aligned to collective regional goals. In May, partners will provide an update on how employers and community partners can benefit from connection to MyCareerE3, a regional work-based learning platform linking students to experiences across the region. Members of the NKY College & Career Connector team will share the latest on progress towards our regional goal to increase WBL across Northern Kentucky.
- The objective team focused on Dual Credit are working on the development of a Parent/Counselor Higher Ed Camp to be held in the Fall 2021. This was identified as one tactic for overcoming barriers that students face for participating in dual credit. The Ed Camp will focus on sharing knowledge that holistically supports NKY students while educating and engaging parents and school personnel. Potential topics to cover include: Dual Credit, College Pathways, KDE College and Career Readiness Standards, Opportunities for Career Sectors, Family Resource Centers, Financial Aid/Scholarship Hunting, Area Technology/Career Technology Opportunities, Parent Advisory groups, how to Advocate for your child, MyCareer3, YouScience/other aptitude assessments and Mental Health resources. More details to come.