

2008 Wisconsin State Leadership Conference

Workforce Readiness Session – Presented by Margie Harvey and Helen Englebert

The HR Professional's Critical Partnership Role in Your Current & Future Workforce

Friday, August 8, 2008

1. What can you do, as an HR professional, to influence this work or make a difference?

- Benchmark various Fond du Lac Co-op programs
- Involvement in local Chamber groups
- Encouraging “bring your child to work” or bring students to work
- Working with Junior Achievement and helping high schools to embrace it and use it to teach the basics in school
- Get someone from the school district as a member of the chapter
- Get more information about teacher externships, tap into resources available
- Offer to go into schools to talk to students about what skills companies are looking for
- Grants – find all resources in the community

2. What can you do, as a Local HR Chapter, to influence this work or make a difference?

- Offer to speak at schools
- Reach out to school districts
- Partner with Junior Achievement
- Volunteer for High School “Reality Day”
- Credit Unions in schools
- Recruit as local chapter members school district officials, city and local government officials
- Business leaders in schools as speakers
- WAT Grants
- Career Day tours
- Reality Stores in schools
- FIRST Robotics, Project Grill, Project Mini Chopper
- CESA input
- Career Fair (Passport for Success)
- Set up Co-op programs with schools through Chamber of Commerce
- Programs like “New North” share findings with schools regarding professions that have declining candidates so that students are aware of future job needs (on DWD website)
- Find out about Teacher Externships
- Encourage companies to contact local tech schools to share (both ways) what skills are needed and/or looking for
- Provide to our members info on what is available to employers through Workforce Development
- Facilitate relationship with the student chapters

3. What can we do, as a State Council, to influence this work or make a difference?

- Help, encourage, and promote programs

- Community relations role (what programs and areas of assistance exist)
- Help influence the school districts to partner with us
- Encourage school districts to join local chapters
- Put together a list of things that chapters could do to help make in-roads or a tool kit of “how-to’s”
- A list of what is available, who to go to, resources, etc.
- Work with the UW system on better preparing students for the workforce
- Evaluate General Education credits – should all students be required to take more work skill classes versus liberal arts credits