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**Building the Next Generation**

**of Career and Technical Education**

**Outcomes – March 5 Region E Consortia Meeting**

**Vision Statement**:

Career and Technical Education in Region E is driven by collaboration with industry, students, and community and maximizes all of the resources in the region to achieve success. Talent in Region E is informed, educated, excited, and ready for careers here now, and in the future.

**Target Industries for Investment:**

* Health Science
* Information Technology/STEM
* Manufacturing
* Skilled Trades

There was also discussion about addressing the teacher shortage, and this will be discussed in follow-up conversations.

The Central Workforce Board shares the focus on investments in local talent through Sector Strategies, which ensures CTE can build stronger collaboration with the Workforce Connections resources, as well.

**Opportunities to Pursue Moving Forward:**

* The strong focus on collaboration to maximize the power of CTE in the region will require ongoing relationships/conversations with business and industry to ensure talent pathways are well aligned to the relevant needs of employers in each industry.
* Looking for opportunities to leverage multiple funding streams for workforce development-related funding sources can help to ensure that CTE is well-funded.
* Elevating visibility for CTE among employers, as well as students and parents, will ensure maximum participation in CTE programs and let employers know where to find well-skilled talent.

**NOTES FROM THE DISCUSSION:**

What’s in Our Favor as a Region?

* Quality of Life
* Easy access to leadership
* National Labs
* Federal Government
* Quality of Schools
* Low Crime
* Available Labor

What’s in Our Way?

* Cost to develop land
* Not a right to work state
* Limited infrastructure
* Limited financing for infrastructure
* Airline access
* Funding for CTE as a state ($14 million total)
* Leaking talent pipelines from education to industry

Surprises in the Labor Market Analysis:

* Aging Population
* Isolated Communities
* Business Engagement
* Talent Retention
* Counseling and Career Literacy
* Adult Learners
* Diversity
* Student Participation
* Operations & Project Management Careers

Characteristics of the Workforce Talent of Region I:

* Well-Equipped with the Employability or “Soft” skills
  + Communication
  + Customer service
  + Attendance
  + Engagement
  + Understanding Expectations
  + Working together
  + Dedication (Stickwithitness)
  + Time Management
  + Work Ethic/Pride in Work
  + Team Player
  + Adaptable/Ability to Pivot
  + Critical Thinking (2)
  + Problem Solving (2)
  + Digital Literacy
* Technical skills
  + Financial literacy (2)
  + Literacy skills (math and reading)
* Attitude attributes
  + Being teachable
  + Proactive/Driven
  + Resilience/Resiliency to Persevere
  + Committed

Characteristics of our CTE program to build the talent we need:

* System will have:
  + A STRONG focus on Collaboration:
    - Alignment between programs from Secondary to Post-Secondary to Adult to Industry to Community
      * Families, Education, Industry
    - Accessibility to, and consistency of, programs across the region
    - Communication and collaboration between partners
    - Roadmaps/Pathways for talent development
    - Remove silos between workforce development efforts
    - Middle and High School teachers are equipped with CTE content expertise from industry
  + Work-Based Learning Experiences
  + CTE programs will generate employer-valued certifications and credentials
    - Including stackable, standardized, industry-recognized credentials
* Talent will:
  + Be well informed and exposed to the career opportunities in the region
  + Have a “spark” of enthusiasm about becoming part of the workforce of the region
  + Be workforce-ready with proven skills, including employability skills
    - Skills will be transferrable
  + Inclusive/differentiated
  + Future-focused
* Promotion of CTE programs by the state
  + Build awareness among students and employers
  + Boost the legitimization of CTE programs through increased funding support