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Regards,
Van Ton-Quinlivan, Vice Chancellor
CCCCO Division of Workforce and Economic Development

Announcing the Launch of the Practices with Promise eShowcase - Student Data for Success!

The Practices with Promise eShowcase is one of the tools provided under the Doing What MATTERS for Jobs and the Economy framework to support the field in developing and sharing practices that improve student success with workforce outcomes. Here, you can Browse the eShowcase Stories to search for strategies and practices, and Submit a Success Story highlighting your success, testimonials and innovations for sharing with others.

USDOL Speaks on Top Four Changes with Federal WIOA Legislation

Virginia Hamilton, USDOL Regional Administrator, Employment and Training and Administration, Region 6, sees a new era of job training, based on four key improvements to the workforce system under the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) signed by President Obama:
1. More sophisticated implementation of sector strategies: The sector strategies model is not a new one—it has been discussed by workforce practitioners for decades. However, Virginia sees WIOA as institutionalizing this strategy, and also as taking it to another level. She explains: “The better WIBs and workforce providers already implement the key elements of sector strategies: understanding the dynamics of a sector, keeping in close contact with employers, and tailoring training to the sector needs. WIOA ensures that the strategy is applied widely throughout the system; and that all WIBs heighten their sector tracking and understanding within economic regions.”

2. Greater accountability of workforce programs, outside of the WIB system: Under the WIA-funded programs, the WIB system carefully tracked placements and other metrics. In contrast, many of the workforce programs funded under other federal revenue streams associated with housing, transportation and especially with food stamp programs, rarely were held to placement goals. WIOA brings an accountability to federal workforce programs, funded through other revenue streams. She notes that that the Biden report emphasizes a “job-driven” agenda and checklist, against which most federal workforce programs will be held accountable.

3. Workforce Boards as conveners, community leaders and venture capitalists: When Virginia was head of the California Workforce Association, she developed the annual “Meeting of the Minds” conference, to connect WIB directors with thought leaders outside of the public workforce system. In her view, effective workforce planning requires WIBs to understand the broader dynamics of the state and national economies, and to pull together economic participants in the region. She sees in WIOA the role of the WIBs broadening from program operators, to conveners, community leaders and even types of venture capitalists. As Virginia explains, “WIOA shifts the role of WIBs into private sector led boards whose role is to understand the local economy, the industries that drive economic growth and job creation, and to see to it that employers have the skilled worker pipeline they need. In their new role, they are also responsible to ensure that low skilled individuals get access to the training and skills they need to participate in the economy. The role is similar in ways to a venture capital firm, understanding the gaps in a labor market, and funding the solutions those gaps with the goal of economic prosperity.”

4. A new opportunity to redesign public systems with the customer in the center: One constant in Virginia's career since her Stockton EDD days has been a focus on the job seeker. The workforce system is to get results for the job seeker—and avoid abstractions and ideology. She sees in WIOA a new opportunity to improve the customer focus of the workforce system. According to Virginia, “this is an important time in the evolution of government programs to put the employer and the job seeker in the center of the design of our systems - leveraging multiple federal funding streams, innovating new ways to help people get skills and jobs, and ensuring real access for all Americans. In the states in my region, we are committed to do more than just make changes to comply with the new law. We are committed to making government work for the people we serve.”
Meet Theresa Tena, New Vice Chancellor of Institutional Effectiveness

What issues are you most passionate about as they relate to institutional effectiveness and student success?

We are rethinking some of our siloed approaches throughout the system, and recognizing the silos need to connect more. I'm here to help connect the divisions of the Chancellor's Office as well as our technical assistance partner district in order to facilitate the development of guidelines and technical assistance tools for districts which flow across instruction, student services, economic and workforce development, and fiscal areas. This effort will reach out to all our districts - those in need and stable districts to provide a platform to highlight and allow cross pollination of exemplary programs between districts/colleges. The catalyst for these changes has been the student success effort and a recognition by the decision makers in Sacramento that the Chancellor's Office needs to be more proactive related to accreditation issues, fiscal issues, student performance, and fulfilling state and federal guidelines. For me as I embark upon this work, the question always at the forefront "Is this in the best interest of students?" If that could be the overlay of everything we do, it will further the self-reflective, evidenced based approach the system is going through and focus the system on the implementation strategies needed for our students to be successful.

What one change would you champion at the state level for colleges to be more attuned with workforce skill needs?

I wish for better collaboration and more transparency among educational organizations including workforce, adult education, K-12 pathways programs, etc. I'd like to see those segments work more cohesively together. It's in the best interest of our students and our state. We are being asked to rise to a new level, and I am encouraged to see and support how we will do so.

New Reports

Life Sciences/Biotech Middle Skills Workforce Report

Using unique methodology for a complex industry, the Centers of Excellence, Life Sciences / Biotechnology Initiative and NSF/ATE Center Bio-Link formed a project team to obtain authentic, actionable LMI and gap analysis for Middle Skills Jobs. The outcome of a full year effort, the report rolls up data both statewide and regionally. See the full report here.
"How do we measure student success?" The Ones That Got Away is the executive summary of a just released study that looks at the 'skills-builder' issues. This may be helpful at your campus as you work to build strong student outcomes for your workforce programs.