

Annual Report

Spring 2010



The Partnerships for Innovation (PFI), unique to Nebraska, is funded with 10% of consortium member Carl D. Perkin's Career and Technical Education dollars. The funds are used to address the 2006 Act requirements of: statewide secondary – postsecondary transitions, data systems, partnerships, and technical skill assessment. Below are some of the activities your PFI contributions have been able to develop and support.

Visioning Forums are structured meetings which bring secondary and postsecondary educators, business and industry and trades/community organizations together to create programs of study, a sequence of three or more courses which capstone in a “value-add” for the student. Value-add options can include dual credit, state or national industry-based certification and workplace learning experience/demonstration of learning (portfolio). The following Career Clusters have experienced a Visioning Forum and are preparing for Standards Revision Workshops scheduled summer 2010. For more information please visit the PFI website for regular updates. <http://partnershipsforinnovation.org/standards-revision/>

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Visioning Forum conducted **December 1 – 2, 2009**

Number of Participants: 54

Representation:

- Business/Industry - 20
- Postsecondary Educators - 9
- Secondary Educators - 25

Results Summary:

At the conclusion of the Visioning Forum an initial definition of Programs of Study for Nebraska Agricultural/Environmental Education was developed. Additional iterations will occur over the next few months culminating with the Standards Revision Writing July 12 – 15, 2010. Programs of study will include the following pathways: 1. Animal Systems, 2a. Plant Systems: Horticulture (concentration), 2b. Plant Systems: Agronomy (concentration), 3. Agribusiness Systems, 4. Food Products and Processing Systems, 5. Power, Structural and Technical Systems, 6. Environmental Service Systems and 7. Natural Resource Systems.

Committees have been established to explore two areas: Creating a “model” Agriculture/Environmental Programs which can be used to help schools/communities develop solid programs and exploring how to include/integrate environmental science and educators in programming development.

Standards Revision Workshop will be held at UNL East Campus, July 12 – 15, 2010. For more information please visit the PFI website.

Education and Training

Visioning Forum conducted **February 23, 2010**

Number of Participants – 40

Representation

- Business/Industry - 3
- Postsecondary Educators - 18
- Secondary Educators/ Department of Education - 19

Results Summary:

Two programs of study were identified to be developed at the high school level to prepare students for careers in Education and Training. *Early Childhood Education* and *Teaching/Training* are the programs of study were selected. It

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was determined by the group that *the Administration and Professional Support Services* career pathways require more training than the broad experiences available in most high schools and require advanced degrees.

A list of student competencies to be included in a capstone course has been established by the four-year teacher education institutions. A list of experiences and competencies were collected which will shape the two to three preceding courses designed by the Standards Revision team.

Standards Revision Workshop will be held in Lincoln June 29 - 30, 2010. For more information please visit the PFI website.

Health Sciences

Visioning Forum conducted **March 16, 2010**

Number of Participants: 35

Representation

- Business/Industry – 8
- Postsecondary Educators - 12
- Secondary Educators/Department of Education - 15

Results Summary: One program of study was defined with eight (8) capstone opportunities which should provide a breadth of “gateway” careers in the Health Sciences industry. Two courses will be universally delivered with a variable capstone course. The following were determined as possibilities:

Capstone Course Options (value add):

1. Wellness Hybrid (experience)
2. Nutrition College-Level (dual credit)
3. Advanced Health Science (experience)
4. Phlebotomy (dual credit and certification)
5. Medication Aide (state license and dual credit)
6. Nurse Aide (licensure and dual credit)
7. EMTB (licensure and dual credit)
8. HIMS (dual credit)

It was determined by the group that the *Diagnostics, Support Services* and *Biotechnology and Research Development* career pathways should be integrated into a high school level introductory course, but should not stand on their own as pathways because they require more training than the broad experiences available in most high schools. The *Health Informatics* and *Therapeutic Services* pathways are feasibly delivered in high schools, however the *Health Informatics* would require a great deal of marketing to lure students.

Standards Revision Workshop will be held at UNL East Campus, July 12 – 15, 2010. For more information please visit the PFI website.

Industrial, Manufacturing and Engineering Systems

Visioning Forum conducted **April 13, 2010**

Number of Participants - 45

Representation from

- Business/Industry - 5
- Department of Labor – 1

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- Postsecondary Educators – 13
- Secondary Educators/ Department of Education - 26

Results Summary:

April 13, 2010 more than 50 professionals gathered to create rigorous programs of study for the Industrial, Manufacturing and Engineering Systems Career Field. Three of the four clusters were addressed: Architecture & Construction, Manufacturing and Transportation, Distribution & Logistics. Science, Technology, Engineering and Math career cluster will be addressed at a later time because of its breadth.

The following are the programs of study created. July 19 – 22, 2010 a group of secondary and postsecondary faculty will spend time creating standards which students will be expected to be able to know and do as a result of completing the sequence of three or more courses. Topics listed beneath each course will help guide the standards writers as they build the courses.

Manufacturing The program of study will have one universal introductory course for each of the three specializations (*Production, Process and Maintenance*) within the career cluster.

General/Universal Introductory Course: Intro to Manufacturing

Production Pathway

Course 2: Fabrication and Manufacturing

Course 3: Advanced Fabrication and Manufacturing (capstone dual credit/certification)

Manufacturing Production Process Development Pathway

Course 2: Custom Manufacturing

Course 3: Automated Manufacturing (capstone – dual credit/certification)

Maintenance, Installation and Repair Pathway

Course 2: Electronics

Course 3: Mechatronics (Capstone – dual credit/certification)

The following career pathways were deemed to not meet the needs of the state or ability to deliver at the high school level: *Health, Safety, and Environmental Assurance, Logistics and Inventory Control, and Quality Assurance*. However, the group would like to see concepts integrated into the identified programs of study.

Architecture and Construction The program of study will have one universal introductory course for each of the two specializations (*Design/Preconstruction* and *Construction*) within the career cluster.

General /Universal Introductory Course: Introduction to Built Environments

Design/Pre Construction Pathway

1. Principles of Design and Pre-Construction
2. Applications of Design and Pre-Construction
3. Intro to Architectural Technology (CAD)
4. Project Lead The Way IED and/or CEA

Construction Pathway

1. Principles of Maintenance and Operations

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2. Principles of Construction and Management
3. Application of Construction

The following career pathway was deemed to not meet the needs of the state or ability to deliver at the high school level: *Maintenance/Operations*. However, the group would like to see concepts integrated into the identified programs of study.

Transportation, Distribution and Logistics The program of study will have two specializations (*Facility and Mobile Equipment* and *Logistics Planning and Management Services*).

Facility and Mobile Equipment: One universal introductory course, one second level course and three capstone options.

General /Universal Introductory Course: Foundations and Power, Energy and Transportation systems

Course 2: Auto Mechanic Maintenance

Course 3: Auto Mechanic Repair (Capstone – dual credit or on campus class), or

Course 3: Collision Repair (Capstone – dual credit), or

Course 3: Diesel Repair (Capstone – dual credit)

Logistics Planning and Management Services: A sequence of three courses.

General /Universal Introductory Course: Foundations of Transportation, Distribution and Logistics

Course 2: Transportation and Technology

Course 3: Distribution and Logistics (CLA/CLT certification; dual credit)

The following career pathways were deemed to not meet the needs of the state or ability to deliver at the high school level: *Transportation Operations, Warehousing and Distribution Center Operations; Transportation Systems/Infrastructure Planning, Management, and Regulation; Health, Safety, and Environmental Management; and Sales and Service*. However, the group would like to see concepts integrated into the identified programs of study.

Standards Revision Workshop will be held in Lincoln July 19 – 22, 2010. For more information please visit the PFI website.

Enhanced Communication with Stakeholders

New Website PFI contracted with David and Associates out of Hastings to design a new logo and website. Please take time to peruse the website as it provides a great deal of information and opportunity to engage in statewide activities.

www.partnershipsforinnovation.org

Monthly newsletter To keep Perkins Coordinators and CTE faculty/administrators up-to-date on PFI activities and events, a newsletter is sent out monthly. If you are not currently receiving the newsletter and would like to, contact Erika Volker at erikavolker@hotmail.com to be added to the mailing list.

Professional Development Activities

- *Health Sciences Summer Institute*
 - *July 2009* – PFI contracted with Area Health Education Centers across Nebraska to deliver an intensive one week health science career exploration program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha for 20 high school teachers from across the state. PFI is collaborating with AHEC to provide a similar workshop this year.

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- Insurance Institute - July 13 and 14, Nebraska educators learned how to integrate insurance instruction into their curricula. Sponsored by the Griffith Foundation for Insurance Education, Nebraska Financial Education Coalition, Partnerships for Innovation, Nebraska Department of Education and the Federal Reserve Bank, the institute was the culminating activity for an online 3 credit graduate course in insurance offered through the University of Central Arkansas. Forty-four (44) middle-level, secondary and postsecondary business, marketing, math and family consumer and science teachers from across the state were actively engaged in learning new content, active learning strategies and heard from insurance professionals through a field trip to Blue Cross Blue Shield. All 44 participants earned insurance industry certification.
- *21st Century Teaching and Learning Summit* – 159 people attended the workshop held at the Northeast Community College Life Long Learning Center in Norfolk. PFI contracted with David Thornburg and Jim Brazell, January 19 to speak on project-based learning and the impact of integrated CTE and academic coursework on student achievement.
- *Career Academies* are new and developing programs across the state. To provide resources, networking and best practices, PFI provides opportunities for coordinators and directors to collaborate. In October, PFI hosted 54 career academy coordinators, directors and faculty in Omaha. Participants toured the Millard Public School Teacher Academy, Papillion-LaVista/Alegent Health Systems Health Sciences Academy, Omaha Public School Career Center and Metropolitan Community College Career Academy Program. Bi-annual meetings in the Spring and Fall will be orchestrated for continued support and collaboration in 2010 – 2011.

Nebraska Career Connections PFI manages the statewide contract, supports training opportunities and coordinates with businesses to generate continued financial support. In the 2009 – 2010 school year more than 22,928 profiles were created by students' grades 7 – 12 and adult job seekers in Nebraska.

Below are data of the activity and interest assessments on NebraskaCareerConnections.org according to an aggregated report from August 1, 2009 – April 22, 2010:

Career Search with Person Match (Career Interest Assessment)	
Top 3 Career Clusters	Percentage of Students Interested in Career Cluster
Health Science	11.8%
Finance	9.4%
Architecture and Construction	9.2%
Bottom 3 Career Clusters	Percentage of Students Interested in Career Cluster
Marketing	4.1%
Manufacturing	2.9%
Transportation, Distribution and Logistics	2.7%

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Skills Assessment	
Top 3 Career Clusters	Percentage of Students Interested in Career Cluster
Hospitality and Tourism	19%
Education and Training	13%
Information Technology	11.4%
Bottom 3 Career Clusters	Percentage of Students Interested in Career Cluster
Business Management and Administration	2.2%
Government and Public Administration	1.9%
Marketing	1.5%

Gap Analysis: There is a significant skills gap between the student's interest areas and their skills sets with the exception of Transportation, Distribution and Logistics.

Distribution of Students' Grades Taking the Interest Assessment

Career Search with Person Match (Career Interest Assessment)	
	Percentage of Students
8 th Grade	30.3%
9 th Grade	22%
10 th Grade	17.6%

Statewide Memberships PFI coordinates statewide memberships to the following organizations for curriculum and professional development:

National Repository of Online Courses (NROC)

Statewide advisory committee established to provide training and expertise to educators across the state.

Goals are to:

1. Generate awareness of NROC and HippoCampus (open educational resource) with teachers both academic and career education across the state
2. Provide technical assistance and professional development on the use of NROC and HippoCampus with teachers and administrators
3. Establish and evaluation system and report on success to the Partnerships for Innovation

The following education Institutions are currently hosting content on an in-house server: ESU 3, ESU 11, ESU 13, ESU 16, University of Nebraska at Omaha, myeLearning.org of Nebraska, UNL Independent Study High School, Omaha Public Schools, , MidPlains Community College, Northeast Nebraska Network Consortium (ESU 1), Wayne State College, and Bryan LGH College of Nursing.

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Today's Class.com

Today's Class.com membership provides two online courses: Introduction to Automotive and Introduction to Health Sciences. The curriculum is used by school districts across the state which range urban, suburban and rural schools to enhance classroom instruction. Below is the use report for both courses for the 2009 - 10 school year.

Program	Number of Schools Registered	Number of Instructors Registered	Number of Students Registered	Number of Modules Accessed
Intro to Automotive	23	15	438	1693
Intro to Health Sciences	18	5	63	188

Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. (EMSI)

EMSI provides a wealth of minable data to all six Nebraska Community Colleges which provides the opportunity to predict the economic and workforce needs of their communities to design curriculum and programs to meet those projected outcomes. PFI has a host of reports available free of charge for Educational Service Unit regions and larger school district within a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Currently this data is being used to assist Career Academy programs and school districts with the development of rigorous and meaningful career education opportunities which directly impact the future workforce of Nebraska.

External Funding Secured

- Sherwood Foundation: National Writing Project for Omaha area schools (\$12,000.00)
- Department of Transportation: Curriculum writing for Transportation, Distribution and Logistics (\$10,000.00)

Director, Erika Volker, welcomes suggestions, comments and the opportunity to work with your schools, educators and administration. To schedule time, please contact her by email at erikavolker@hotmail.com, Erika@partnershipsforinnovation.org or by phone 402.305.9480

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