

Nebraska Career Academy Meeting
Younes Conference Center, Kearney NE
June 7, 2011 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM



Welcome, Introductions and Housekeeping: Erika welcomed the group. Erika reminded folks of mileage reimbursement and the group introduced themselves. A list of attendees can be found in the attachments.

Review of Fall Meeting Outcomes: Erika Volker shared the data sets identified by the Career Academy Coordinators and Directors at the Fall 2010 meeting based on the Statewide Quality Indicators previously approved by the Community College Chief Instructional Officers and the Nebraska State Board of Education. Erika shared the data sets with Matt Hastings who serves on a committee of the P-16 Statewide Longitudinal Data team.

Data from P-16 Initiative, NDE State Data System: Matt Hastings shared with the group the structure of the P-16 Statewide Longitudinal Data system and how students would receive a unique student identification number. The secondary system (NSSRS) and the postsecondary system would have an opportunity to “talk” with one another to align the students with the data. Within the system the high school students who had the opportunity to take a dual credit course would be noted in the system, but this information would not show up on their transcripts. The dual credit component would only show up in the secondary system, not in the postsecondary system as the credit is college credit. The data system is mandatory because Nebraska accepted the ARRA funds from two years ago. Matt encouraged the group to define what they would like to share with the community as it relates to Career Academies, or the community will define it for them.

The agenda was modified due to the number of statewide dual credit and career academy questions related to the Coordinating Commissions study of Dual Credit and Career Academies.

Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education Dual Credit and Career Academy Study: Kathleen Fimple and Jason Keese presented the specifics of the legislative study and the next steps the group is going to take. The piece of legislation that is specific to dual credit and career academies is below. It was shared that the CCPE will establish an Advisory Committee which will meet and assist the CCPE with the development of the study. Jason is creating a website and distribution email list which will communicate the developments of the study. CCPE looks for involvement of stakeholders. If members would like more information shared with them, please contact Jason Keese at Jason.keese@nebraska.gov All attendees of the Career Academy Meeting will have their email address forwarded to Jason.

Meeting members were asked to write down questions they would like the CCPE to include in the study. Those questions are attached below.

Certification and Accreditation: Rich Katt shared that to better identify dual credit courses, the Department of Education has created a separate section of Appendix D, the document which categorizes all courses taught in middle and high schools, for dual credit courses. Rich asked the community colleges to send their course listings so that when high schools identify a dual credit course, they will have the college course option to select from. This should improve reporting and accuracy of the dual credit courses offered at high schools.

It was strongly suggested that the **Career Academy Programs** align to the state model **Programs of Study** as this will benefit rural schools that record students in the Academy programs for Perkins accountability purposes. The state model programs of study include three courses, the first, a high school credit only course, the second a more advanced course which may or may not be offered for college credit and the final course in

the sequence which has some *value-add* for students. This *value-add* may include a state/national certification, dual credit option or work-place learning option. The Programs of Study have been validated by business and industry and have support from many postsecondary institutions. A portal is underdevelopment which outlines the Programs of Study for use by secondary and postsecondary institutions. The portal should be available July 15 for public use.

Use of Perkins funds for Career Academy Programs: Rich Katt shared that Perkins' funds should be viewed as a Federal investment not a source to supplant current programs. The intent is to fund innovation for three years, then identify new innovations to focus. H3 (high wage, high demand, high skill) jobs will most likely be the main focus in the next round of legislation. Erika shared that a part of the current legislation requires statewide articulation which Nebraska has not yet addressed. Erika planted the seed that this activity will be coming in the future and she would like input from stakeholders as how to proceed in the best manner for Nebraska. Some ideas are to create a new system, or possibly build on the Nebraska Transfer Initiative. The last area that was address was Technical Skill Attainment which Nebraska views as validated through dual credit courses and state/nation certifications. Nebraska will not be looking at end of course exams, however, if the legislation requires, may look at end of Program of Study assessments...More on this to come.

Future Planning: Locally and Statewide: Rich Katt and Erika Volker shared with the group the Dr. Chris Dede Microsoft: Bringing Innovation to Scale in Education. It is important that Career Academy programs are nimble and meet the needs of stakeholders. This presentation was intended to help bring some futuristic thinking to the group as it relates to statewide activities on the horizon such as: Virtual High School, student mobility, limited financial resources, and the statewide dual credit and career academy study. The materials disseminated are available below, and can be found on the PFI website www.partnershipsforinnovation.org.

The group provided more questions for the study which are included with the questions asked to the CCPE.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.