

Director's Annual Report: Executive Summary

June 2015



Partnerships for Innovation is a collaboration of Nebraska's secondary and postsecondary partners focused on building a better statewide CTE system to improve student learning and better meet economic development priorities. PFI will do this by introducing innovation in CTE Delivery Systems to include Career Academies, Professional Development and Programs of Study with Coordinated Curriculum.

Programs of Study Development: PFI assisted with the enhancement and facilitation of **reVISION**; a Program of Study development process which integrate labor market information and Nebraska's Economic Industry Clusters in high schools. PFI worked directly with the following school districts: [Fremont](#), Crete, Thayer Central, Cedar Bluffs and Bennington.

CTE Delivery Systems to include Career Academies

PFI has provided the statewide membership to **Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. (EMSI)** since 2007. This membership provides community colleges the opportunity to quickly identify regional labor projections. This year's contract included access to a professional development certification for two community college staff. Below itemizes the number of times the college accessed the system and the number of completers of the professional development opportunity.

College	# of Logins 2014-15	Certification Completed
Central Community College	67	3
Metropolitan Community College	29	1
Mid-Plains Community College	35	2
Northeast Community College	162	2
Southeast Community College	29	1
Western Nebraska Community College	3	1
Totals	325	10

PFI partially supported the **Nebraska Manufacturers Advisory Council Social Media** campaign. The impact is as follows:

	September	January	April
Klout Score	48	47	50

**Klout Score is a composite of online activity through social media venues such as Facebook, Twitter, Pintrest, Snapchat, etc.*

PFI and Abie Ott, Central Community College, [presented](#) at three statewide conferences regarding the **college preparedness** of Nebraska's high school students. Nebraska State School Board Conference, 2014 NCE Conference, 2014 Fall School Counselor Conference. The duo shared the average percentages of recent (within two years) high school graduates who have taken remediation/developmental coursework, strategies Nebraska colleges are implementing to address remediation and showcased the [EdReady.org](#) website; a free tool available to determine college readiness prior to taking the ACT or Compass exam. More than 100 people attended the [presentation](#) at one of the three conferences.

Career Academy Leadership: PFI provided professional development to teachers and administrators regarding the development and implementation of Rule 47: Career Academy. PFI hosted a statewide Career Academy meeting for postsecondary Career Academy managers. PFI facilitated discussions with Nebraska's community college leadership and it was determined that online Career Academy programs are not yet a viable option for Nebraska until statewide systems are better aligned. PFI has offered technical assistance to existing Academy programs at the secondary and postsecondary levels.

PFI provided intensive technical assistance to **Omaha Benson High School** for the development of wall-to-wall career academies. PFI facilitated a community-based taskforce and developed an [implementation plan](#) which was approved by the OPS School Board in early 2015.

PFI developed a **Career Academy Strand** at the NCE Conference. Dr. Chaney Mosley from Nashville Public Schools (a nationally recognized model) presented on June 3. On June 4 of the conference, PFI highlighted Nebraska rural and mid-large sized school implementation of Rule 47 and provided technical assistance to those schools in attendance.

Professional Development: PFI created a [highlight video](#) of PFI accomplishments and was shown at each of the NCE Fall Workshops, held at Nebraska community colleges and Educational Service Units across the state. More than 490 secondary and postsecondary faculty attended updates on state model programs of study and curriculum enhancements while provided the opportunity to network.

The chart is a breakdown of the educators served by the professional development funds issued by the Partnerships for Innovation.

Professional Development Activity	Directly Served
CASE Agriculture Education Training	20
Developmental Education CTE/Academic Alignment	34
STEM Project Lead the Way Support/Participating Schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lincoln Public Schools</i> • <i>Westside Community Schools</i> • <i>Millard Public Schools</i> • <i>South Sioux City Community Schools</i> • <i>Omaha Public Schools</i> • <i>Grand Island Northwest Public Schools</i> • <i>Kearney Public Schools</i> • <i>Scottsbluff High School</i> 	18
NCE Fall Workshops at Community Colleges	491
National CTE related Conference Scholarships	79

PFI facilitated the [Nebraska: Think IT](#) statewide simulcast. Working with the Nebraska Dept. of Economic Development, PFI coordinated with each of Nebraska’s community colleges and one tribal college to broadcast through Nebraska Educational Television a statewide conversation around the IT workforce needs in the state. Each community college site had a local business panel, the college presented on available programs. The day culminated with the University of Nebraska sites sharing their programs of study, a hands-on activity and the Commissioner of Education’s support of schools and their role in the IT workforce. More than 160 people registered for the event and 63 individuals completed the follow up evaluation.

General Operations

The Director worked with a vendor to redesign the website, so that it is more up to date and better aligned with the PFI program of work. Partnerships for Innovation disseminates a monthly newsletter sent to more than 1300 educators, administrators and workforce development staff with an average open rate of 35%. PFI has also established a Twitter feed to communicate updates and current research, and best practice to those who follow.