

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT COUNCIL

JANUARY 19, 20010

2:30 P.M.

SENECA ROOM – TST BOCES

PRESENT: B. Myers, N. Zook, J. Bellis, L. Schoffel, S. Tabor, Y. Merit, D. Bradac, H. Cooper, V. Zeppelin
EXCUSED: B. Yarosh
ABSENT: R. Pollack
GUESTS: F. Zuckerberg, TC3 LEAP Program Coordinator
STAFF: J. Mattick, J. Luu

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Mattick called the meeting to order in Ms. Myers absence at 2:38 p.m. and introductions followed.

TC3 LEAP Program Overview

Ms. Zuckerberg provided demographic information about the students enrolled in the LEAP Program. The program began just prior to the last semester and proved to be very busy getting the students enrolled, etc. The program is two-thirds funded by the Tompkins County Workforce Investment Board and one-third by Cortland County. Thirty students are participating with the number from each county broken down similar to the funding. The two-year pilot program was implemented to see if it is possible to affect the retention rate of low-income students enrolled in community college. If successful, it is hoped that additional funding will be obtained to carry the program beyond the first two years.

Ms. Myers arrived.

Ms. Zuckerberg indicated she meets with each participant for 30 minutes weekly to go over any needs or concerns the student may have. She then helps facilitate next steps whether it be to help the student get additional help with their studies, obtain books or supplies they may need for classes, or obtain a bus pass to get to campus. The Program has also collaborated with the college bookstore and JobLink to allow students to get the necessary books they need prior to all of their financial aid being received. She stated the first semester was primarily spent building trust among the youth and advocating for them where needed. All but three students are returning for this semester. During this semester there will also be peer group sessions for career exploration as well as discussions about summer job opportunities.

Ms. Mattick asked if it is possible to get data relating to the students with IEP diplomas. Ms. Zuckerberg stated the majority of students in the program had either an IEP diploma or a 504 Plan in high school and the majority have had to take prep courses at the college.

Ms. Mattick stated meetings are held with program staff and Cortland/Cayuga Workforce Investment Board and it has been decided that an evaluation will be completed following this semester to get a sense of how successful the program is.

Ms. Cooper asked what criteria must be met for inclusion in the program and whether there are currently open slots available. Ms. Zuckerberg stated an individual must live in Tompkins or Cortland Counties and be financially eligible. Several participants were previously in the WIA youth employment program. The program is designed for two years, so unless someone drops out there will not be open slots available.

Ms. Zeppelin asked if there is a goal to move the large number of students currently in liberal studies into degree programs. Ms. Zuckerberg stated it is a goal and the process will begin this semester; however, it is still very difficult for many participants to narrow down what field they wish to pursue.

Youth Initiatives – Staffing Update

Ms. Mattick stated she has been meeting with Ms. Myers and Mark Coldren from the Workforce Investment Board as part of a business subcommittee to discuss ideas about initiatives that could be implemented if there was staffing available for the projects. She stated the group decided, and Ms. Zook has graciously agreed, to subcontract with the WIB for 6-7 hours per week to begin work on some of these projects. Additional updates will be provided as the details are finalized.

Speakers Bureau? Core Questions?

The group discussed the possibility of creating a speakers bureau to get information from businesses into schools. Both the speaker and the students need to be properly prepared in order to ask the right questions and get the information out and there needs to be activities for the students to keep their interest. There was discussion about conducting the teacher internship program prior to implementing the speaker's bureau.

Youth Employment Programs Staff Development Discussion

The group continued discussion about common staff development needs. Ms. Zook stated she has mapped out a strategy involving the inner ring of individuals providing youth development services and other youth providers. The goal of the group will be to gain a better understanding of each other's programs and the criteria for each program, as well as provide an opportunity for providers to build relationship with one another. Some ideas to be considered for discussion include:

- Tips on careers and counseling
- Labor market information
- What are green jobs really?
- Where are adolescents and how can we help them to take responsibility
- Helping kids to understand choices

Teacher Internship Program

It is hoped that that teacher internship program will begin this summer. Ms. Zook suggested a small group be formed to work on this initiative. The program will involve doing some pre work with teachers around STEM careers, will provide industry placements and from there will help participants integrate what they have learned into their curriculum to take the information back to the classroom.

Upstate NY Biocareer Connections Update

The second annual Biocareer Connections Career Fair will be held at TC3 on March 16, 2010 from 12:45-5 p.m. The event is targeted toward college and graduate students to provide a opportunity for job seekers and bioscience related companies in Upstate NY to connect with one another, share their expectations and opportunities, network and form business relationships, and increase awareness of what type of bioscience careers exist in this area.

Health Careers Expo 2010

The second annual health career expo will be held October 14, 2010 at Ithaca College. Additional volunteers will be needed that day. Help would be appreciated.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m. The Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 2 p.m. at BOCES.

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Luu.