

Breakout Descriptions

SESSION I

Making Learning Relevant

In order to ensure that students in the public school system are acquiring the skills that they need to succeed in life after high school, they need to understand **why** learning is important and **how** it relates to their future. As various stakeholders in the community, we need to work together to help students and educators know how classroom teaching relates to real-world applications.

Effective Teaching

Sixty-eight percent of student achievement can be attributed directly to the effectiveness of the teacher. This is why effective teachers are a critical piece in developing our future workforce. We must discuss as a community how to recruit and retain effective teachers.

Developing a Communications Strategy

Everyone in the community must value education and understand its importance in our future economic well-being. In order to make advancements in education and prepare students for the future, our community must understand what is necessary to get there.

Business and Community Engagement

Education is a community issue. We must find a way for community members and educators to link into the public school system and contribute to the overall goal of preparing students to succeed in life after high school.

SESSION II

Bridging the Gap between Higher Ed and Business

In order to meet the demands and expectations of the region's employers, post-secondary educators must know what employers need to maintain and grow their business. Therefore, an open dialogue must exist through which educators and business can work together to produce our future workforce.

Workforce Training

In order to meet short and long-term workforce needs, there must be adequate training programs in place. Future and current workforce must have the opportunity to train with professionals in the field they intend to pursue.

Engaging the Under-Utilized Workforce

In order to meet future workforce needs, we must engage all sectors of the region's population that may not be currently utilized. These include former military officers, retirees, disabled persons and the underemployed.

Attracting and Retaining Quality Workforce

In order to meet workforce gaps we must retain and attract the workforce equipped to do so. We must capitalize on the assets of the region and attract young professionals to grow a life here. We must also uncover the reasons for recent graduates leaving and address those proactively.