

Workforce Steering Committee – Effective Teaching/Relevance (Revised 6/18/08 je)

BUSINESS CASE:

Effective teaching is the single-most important factor in student learning. In order to promote effective teaching, we must arm teachers with the tools and knowledge to improve student learning.

As various stakeholders in the community, we need to work together to help student and educators know how classroom teaching relates to real-works applications.

HYPOTHESIS:

Students will be motivated to learn more and will be able to learn more if they understand the relevance of the subject matter. Teachers will be more successful in imparting that relevance if they receive assistance from the community. An open channel of communication must exist between business and all levels of education.

CURRENT CONDITION:

- A comment made by a superintendent defines the current condition as a “lack of partnership between education and the business world.” These entities share a common goal, which is that students are prepared for life after high school. We need a coordinated effort to achieve this goal.
- Contributing factors to attracting and retaining quality teachers include: pay & benefits, lack of respect, work environment, professional development, and educator induction and preparation. and
- In Tennessee, only 63% of high school freshmen graduate from high school, 39% go to college, 27% reach their second year of college and 17% graduate from college in 6 years.
- Teachers themselves don’t understand the link to classroom material and the real world.

TARGET CONDITION:

Effective Teaching/Relevance

- The perception of the teaching profession is changed – more respect and professionalism is demonstrated by all; teachers are paid adequately. As a result, teaching is a more competitive field and districts are able to recruit top college graduates to the profession.
- Professional development of teachers with business guiding these peer-to-peer relationships.
- Business and industry are welcomed into the classroom to impart their experience and knowledge directly to students.
- Increased technology in the classrooms keeping pace with the technology being used in the business community.

ACTIONS:

	Task	Person Responsible	Completion Date
1	Build an “Internship Database” with a list of internships available to high school and college students, as well as opportunities for teacher to enter the workplace and learn. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The community is encouraged to send us information on any such programs. b. We are also putting together some information on <i>how</i> to start an internship if you wish to do so. 	The chamber is currently putting this together and it will be found on our site, as well as GSPs and any others.	
2	Develop industry partners with individual schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Work with PIE (Partners in Education) to enlist more business and community volunteers at the school level. Publicize those partnerships in more detail on the school website; have a database of available speakers or local “consultants” from which the students or teacher can draw. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Meet with Scottt Bacon to see how we can work together on this. b. Work with website developer (Dave Armstrong) to help design each school’s webpage. Include a space for students and the community to post comments and share information. CONTINUED ON BACK →		

Teacher Turnover			
Student Graduation Rate			
More accurate and favorable understand of employment avenues in the area (measured by pre and post surveys)			

ACTIONS (Continued from page 1):

	Task	Person Responsible	Completion Date
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. One of the things business and community members can share are their work problems that they face everyday. It will help students understand what they need to tackle problems in the workplace.ii. Make sure and ask about security issues on line and also ways to foster student-to-teacher interaction on the site; ask about the parent portal.	Jennifer will contact Armstrong when he returns on 7/8.	
3	<p>Career Exploration and Awareness – Start with middle school students and introduce them to careers and skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Talk to Elizabeth Alves and how we can work with her principals to make this happen.b. Identify a contact to work with at each school (ie. the principal or business teacher).c. Use existing tools & resources, such as the “Where are you in the World of Work” book by NIE.	Cheryl will contact Alves and hopefully we can meet before her mtg on 7/18.	
7	Increase participation of society members in the Vols4STEM program through one-on-one recruiting.		