

Education & Workforce Development Committee  
Chamber of Commerce  
Friday, September 28, 2007

***Attendees: Miguel Torres, Terrance Robbins, Linda Hardin, Bobbi McCreary, Samantha Ewendt, Wendy Gierard, Bob Boyle, Doug Ward, Noni Burno***

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:15p at the board room at the Landing. Blaine Ashcraft was unavailable due to traveling.

Wendy Gierard gave a brief overview of the UAS workforce development task force meeting earlier that day. Committee members noted that there is a great deal of employment information already available through AK DOL and Carl Perkins Grant. The task force has suggested working with the chamber to create a survey that would ask employers what their employment needs are today and in the future and what kinds of education employees will need to do the work required. The Chamber Education committee agreed that this would be a project that should be worked through them.

Committee members suggested working together to gather data and not reinvent the wheel. Miguel Torres asked that the survey be ready by next meeting to review and then send out to chamber members.

Bob Boyle reported on the Governor's Work Ready/College Ready initiative. The goal is to prepare students for specific skills. The ACT company has designed an assessment (Work Keys) which students will take to determine their work interests and then they will take tests that will determine their level of readiness for different types of work. The goal is to give students the option to obtain a "work ready" certificate which is recognized throughout the country.

Department of Education is still working on the roll-out, training will be taking place for school district employees. For more details on Work Keys & the Work Ready/College Ready initiative, go to: <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/CTE/workready.html>. There is a link to ACT Work keys on the right hand side.

Noni Burno reported that the Job Center has two new grant-funded positions. The career guide and student intern will be working with 14-24-year-olds to help them determine the kinds of jobs they might want and the skills necessary to get them. The student intern will be a peer position and will work with high school students.

Samatha Ewendt reported that the Youth to Work program is working with Revilla to coordinate the soft skill/work ethic workshop. They are working to incorporate career components with Revilla's program of study. Krista Luhrs is working with the group to set out what she teaches in her career class. In November, Revilla will offer the course and students will receive section credits for attendance.

Bobbi also mentioned that KIC is very interested in reaching under 18-years-olds with their skill based classes (i.e. Interviewing, Resume writing).

Terrance Robbins reported that he has a rough draft of an Internship Program that could be sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. It would involve signing on employers who would be willing to take high school students for 6 weeks and teach them about specific jobs. The goal would be to have the internship be meaningful. The program could be a replacement for the 100-hour requirement for students or it could be an add-on for students. The Chamber would need to put together an employer kit.

Miguel Torres asked that at the next meeting more details on Work Keys be available.

Next meeting is Friday, October 26, 2007 at 12noon at the Best Western Landing Jeremiah's.