

The New World of Work: Education and Training Working Together



December 2, 2010



Three Truisms

1. An educated/skilled regional workforce =
 - A strong regional economy
 - Improved quality of life
 - Healthy communities.
2. 60-80% of our jobs require post-secondary education/training.
3. A top 10 factor for businesses in relocating/expanding is an adequate skilled workforce.

Bonus: "80% of success is just showing up."

Woody Allen



Three Regional Realities & Hopes

1. Our post-secondary education/training completion rates are lagging behind; but Visioneering Wichita and Foresight 2020 is committed to changing that.
2. Some in higher ed do not believe business needs should drive education/training; others do and are creating exciting new models.
3. We have yet to walk the talk of functioning as a region consistently and comprehensively; yet there is growing momentum to do so.

Bonus: Some see things as they are and ask why; others dream things that never were and ask why not.

George Bernard Shaw



Three (Okay Four) Solutions

1. Heighten collaborative efforts so that business needs inform educational programming, scheduling and delivery systems.
2. Develop a model to diagnose and eliminate college-readiness gaps before the fact.
3. Develop incentives for adults to return to college to complete certificates and/or degrees.
4. Walk the talk in terms of capitalizing on the region's educational assets, i.e. 21 institutions of higher education.

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So I can't count...thus, one more solution:

Create more internship opportunities.

Bonus: Never, never, never give up.

Winston Churchill

