

**Building the Next Generation**

**of Career and Technical Education**

**Outcomes – March 10 Region J Consortia Meeting**

**Vision Statement**:

Career and Technical Education in Region J provides broad exposure and optimal opportunity for students’ academic and economic success. Career and Technical Education creates a supportive community, aligned to the needs of students, businesses, industry, and economic development.

**Target Industries for Investment:**

* Healthcare
* Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services, including alignment with:
	+ Aerospace
	+ Information Technology
	+ Digital Media
* Skilled trades, including alignment with:
	+ Agriculture
	+ International Trade/Manufacturing
* Education

The Southwestern Area Workforce Development Board shares the focus on investments in local talent through Sector Strategies focused on Healthcare and Education, which leverages greater resources into this “community-based” approach to CTE.

**Opportunities to Pursue Moving Forward:**

* The vision of creating a “community” to wrap-around our Career and Technical Education system is very powerful. Employers as active participants may require some work to remove the barriers that keep them from more directly outreaching to students with career exposure of relevant industries, as was pointed out in the Las Cruces Home Builders Association (LCHBA) example.
* Recruiting partners to help employers see the value of youth employment would help expand work-based learning opportunities.
* Prioritizing healthcare will require a broad partnership community-wide to address shortages of qualified instructors and limited clinical sites for healthcare professional certifications. We have the opportunity to widen the pipeline of talent but will need to address the structural barriers to growth.
* The LCHBA has raised $80,000 to support increasing opportunities for students to pursue careers in the skilled trades. They will be an important partner in this “community” approach.

**NOTES FROM THE DISCUSSION:**

Surprises in the Labor Market Analysis:

* This report contains information that we could be communicating to our students
* Home health care services are in high demand, but offer low wages
* Aging population, but at the same time, we do have a relatively higher population of younger, working age people than most communities in the country.
* Agriculture jobs are really high here
* The report doesn’t discuss the jobs of the future

Characteristics of the Workforce Talent of Region J:

* Attitudes:
	+ Will
	+ Reliable
	+ Passionate about what they do/Dedicated/Tenacious/Motivated (2)
	+ Diversity in culture, ethnicity, and skill levels
	+ Inquisitive (2)
	+ Balanced
	+ Teachable
	+ Adaptable
	+ Engaged
* Skills Needed:
	+ Equipped with the fundamentals so that employers can build on that foundation
	+ Critical thinking
	+ Changing need from employers to have depth on more than one skill area
	+ Problem solving
	+ Experienced/Capable
* Holistic in their social emotional wellbeing

Characteristics of our CTE Program to Build the Talent We Need:

* Rooted in “Community:”
	+ Stakeholder alignment: employers-educators-job applicants
	+ Alignment between CTE instructors and core teachers
	+ Impactful collaboration: time, training, marketing, support
	+ Agile and responsive to the needs of the community and employers
	+ Educated – balanced
	+ Creates an environment of “belonging” to support student engagement and success
* Applied learning
* Life-long learning
* “Opportunity ready” – both the employer and job seeker
* Builds “employability” and life skills
* Equality of CTE programs across high schools (funding and programmatically)
* Accessible
* Provides exposure to a broad set of industries for career exploration
* Supportive of the comprehensive needs of students