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**Building the Next Generation**

**of Career and Technical Education**

**Outcomes – March 11 Region J Consortia Meeting**

**Vision Statement**:

Region K’s Career Pathways breed innovation, opportunity, and progress. The Career and Technical Education system of the region creates a talent pipeline that drives and supports regional economic opportunities by engaging all stakeholders.

**Target Industries for Investment:**

* Skilled Trades, with application to:
  + Oil & Gas
  + Mining/Extraction
  + Energy
  + Technical Fields
* Healthcare

The Eastern Area Workforce Development Board shares the focus on investments in local talent through Sector Strategies focused on Healthcare, which will provide additional resources to support expansion of the talent pipeline. The Eastern Board is also focused on Education, which supports the identified gap in the teacher workforce.

**Opportunities to Pursue Moving Forward:**

* There is great opportunity to leverage existing efforts across the region to engage employers. Signature initiatives are already underway in Hobbs/Lea County and Roswell. The investment of CTE resources can support those on-going efforts.
* Employers in the region are eager to support efforts that go beyond meetings to taking action with specific goals and tactics.
* Small schools may benefit from Perkins Funding for the first time by pooling their efforts and working in partnership with the local REC’s.
* Terrific idea to expand on efforts underway to promote “signing”-type events for student who earn great jobs in the region.
* We need to tell our story better – opportunities that are here and why students have great opportunities to stay
* Regional independence – leverage those assets over which the region has control
* Promote local character

**NOTES FROM THE DISCUSSION:**

Surprises/Observations in the Labor Market Analysis:

* Career literacy is really important
* The report that kids will stay close to home if they are aware of careers and jobs in their communities.
* Need for more counselors
* We need to better understand the entry-level job opportunities where students can gain soft skills and grow their skills toward future employment
* Make the conversation about Pathways, not jobs

Characteristics of the Workforce Talent of Region J:

* Well equipped with employability or “soft” skills:
  + Problem solving
  + Critical thinking
  + Interpersonal skills
  + Follow directions
  + Work ethic
  + Professional behavior
  + Pass drug test
* Attitudes:
  + Grit
  + Self discipline
  + Accountability
  + Motivated
  + Risk takers
  + Shows initiative
  + Engaged
* Ready for success
  + Informed
  + Can read and write
  + Have participated in internships
  + Can communicate their needs

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

* Is the instruction relevant to the current needs of business, and responsive to the future needs of business and economic development?
* Instruction should follow pathways that began with early exposure to career options as early as elementary school and carries them through high school to college to career
* Create a community of mentors do active business engagement
* instruction should combine rigor, expectations of employers, in create a culture between education and employers that models and mentors students in best practices
* Career and technical education should be well marketed
* Employability skills like customer training can be woven in to provide pathways two career advancement