

Upstate Education & Economic Development Forum – November 10, 2016

Acting 10 times bolder, share your “big idea” to impact education & workforce in the Upstate along with a first step.

Top 10 Responses, as scored by participant feedback (maximum available 25 points):

Idea: Create flexibility in our system tailored to individual students' needs (English 4 is not British Lit, but tailored to student needs) Points: 25

First Step: Start to develop a plan to make it happen within the constraints of the system we have in place.

Idea: No restriction to students taking courses and spending the rest of the day on the job or in apprenticeships.

Points: 25

First Step: None provided

Idea: Expand graduation opportunities through additional credentials. Points: 23

First Step: This has been a topic of conversation in SC for 30+ years. I'd run or serve at a level to effect movement.

Idea: Make internships more widely available to high school students. Not just aimed at high achievers, but available to all students. Have students planning to go to college do internships, preferably in an area which they do not plan to study. This would teach life skills and expose students to other people/careers/lifestyles. Points: 23

First Step: None provided

Idea: Create a website, much like the “Hands on Greenville” website, that links work-based learning opportunities at local businesses to high school students (shadowing, internships, co-ops). Points: 23

First Step: Chamber membership

Idea: Look into expanding paid internship programs for students to help match passion with what they are good at. Points: 23

First Step: Visit other schools and districts that have a more comprehensive program.

Idea: Require all juniors and seniors to participate in some type of internship. Points: 23

First Step: Sell it to the stakeholders.

Idea: Eighth grade class that rotated internships every day. Then had a pathway curriculum, WBL, dual credit to that lead career. Points: 23

First Step: Bring all industries to the table to help.

Idea: Have a career specialist in each CTE program area. Every student would job shadow in the 9th and 10th grade years, intern for 10-20 days in junior year with a summer intern or co-op before senior year. Follow-up with co-op in senior year. Points: 22

First Step: Businesses to buy-in and sponsor program.

Idea: Taking time out of instruction to cultivate a culture that reinforces and creates college and career readiness for all students. A culture where students are able to boldly and confidently explore who they are and how that would relate to their future career plans. Points: 22

First Step: Every teacher, counselor, and administrator would be trained in college and career options. Students would have a college/career curriculum course k-12.

Discussion on Obstacles/Challenges/Opportunities:

- Rural School District Challenge– no employers to implement internships in rural counties.
- Hire interns within the school/district (example of credit union at Greenville High School and Anderson 2 hiring students for various support positions)
- Need to market the opportunities for partnerships.
- Liability issues for students who are not 18. Particular barrier in manufacturing.
- Utilize ReadySC
- Changing role of faculty – gain time to connect them to employers/careers.
- Give teachers and administrators the Work Keys test.
- Give graduates a copy of their Work Keys certificate near time of their graduation.
- Students, faculty and parents are not provided thorough explanation of the importance of the Work Keys test, what it means and how to access the results. Better illustrating the value of the test as part of a career path would help enhance the understanding.
- The Upstate Workforce Boards and other partners have created a regional presentation on the value of the Work Keys test that could be given to parents, teachers, students and employers.
- Multiple pathways to graduation – instead of one size fits all. Occupational diploma not a recognized credential. Students still have to take the GED.