

# Skilling the Gap

## Priorities and Projects from *Promising Ideas: Small Group Discussions Session*

(Table # in parentheses)

Where do you see **priorities** for collaborative action?

- Bringing skilled people into the conversation (1)
- Reaching out to community members, getting the word out, changing the culture (addressing stigma surrounding the trades) (1)
- Skill the gap by “skilling the employer,” helping them understand the workforce coming in and what they need and what employers are responsible for (2)
- Training to the needs and strengths of our students not interested in college, beginning in middle school (3)
- Be more aware of transportation issues—getting people from one end of the county to the other (3)
- Reconstruct the business community for remote, non 9-5 work (4)
- Promote students; proximity to work opportunities – bringing students and employers close together and having them experience the work (5)
- Creating partnerships with businesses – bringing the private sector into the conversation, while being practical about housing and transportation needs and solutions (5)
- Making sure that students are placed and incentivizing it (e.g., providing food) (5)
- Promote inclusivity in terms of diversity (e.g., ESL) (5)
- Address gap in services between City of Hudson/Green County’s river towns and the more rural areas (6)
- Information sharing and data support (7)
- Collaborative discussions for policy change with those in the same field, where there is strength in numbers (7)
- Advocating with other agencies and businesses (7)
- Showing the needs from start-to-finish in childcare (8)

What kinds of **projects** do you envision that could be done collaboratively--through partnerships and/or grant funding? (Identify ideas for new approaches or expanding existing programs.)

- Working with AV clubs in school districts and CGCC to get students involved in social media and other AV areas as an avenue for career training; all organizations have AV and social media needs (1)

- Creating a resource database for matching schools/students and internships (1)
- Train youth on skills for building affordable housing (meets multiple needs) (2)
- Post-Covid, help teachers to refocus on the things they were trying to do before the pandemic, in partnership with educational system and businesses (3)
- More support to guidance counselors for assisting with students' mental health, etc. (3)
- Work on affordable housing solutions (3)
- Training and support to employers to enable them to allow for more remote work and provide more flexibility for their employees (4)
- Incentivize Uber drivers as they are not making enough to live on and can provide needed transportation for students (5)
- Partnerships among business, school districts and nonprofits to develop programming that enriches individual development/life-skills of students (e.g., social skills, autonomy); pilot it then extend out to rural areas (6)
- Grant funding for school counselors (7)
- Support trickle-down of federal and state funding, helping to package funds for different types of employers/agencies (7)
- Training and retraining people: skilling people for the new jobs emerging post-pandemic (8)