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Rockford Named Leadership Community by IL 60 by 25 Network

Network advances regional efforts to furthering postsecondary attainment

Rockford, IL – Rockford was named a Leadership Community last week at the IL 60 by 25 Conference, where over 200 people came to Rockford to learn about how to ensure at least 60% of adults in our region have a college or career credential by 2025. Rockford is among nine other Illinois communities to hold the designation.

Illinois communities making progress on Goal 60 by 25 receive Leadership Communities designation once they show multi-sector commitment to mobilizing their education, workforce, and civic sectors to develop a local plan of action.

The 60 by 25 Network is designed to meet the needs of communities that are working together to provide rigorous, real world learning in and out of the classroom. A coalition led by Advance Illinois, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and the Education Systems Center at Northern Illinois University has come together to create a community of practice to help local and regional teams accelerate progress toward the 60% by 2025 goal.

Through this Network, local community teams and statewide partners (such as the Illinois P-20 Council and Illinois Board of Higher Education) are working together to align policy, use data, and mobilize leaders around a common agenda. Participating teams also have access to technical assistance and resources.

"It is an honor to be named a Leadership Community among others who are at the forefront of this work," stated Bridget French, Executive Director of Alignment Rockford. "Alignment Rockford is proud to partner with Rockford Public Schools working toward college and career readiness for all of our students."

Other Illinois Leadership Communities include North Central Illinois/Starved Rock Region; Bloomington/Normal; North Chicago & Waukegan; East St. Louis; Northwest Suburbs; Peoria; Chicago; the Sauk Valley region; and Aurora.

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Alignment Rockford is a collaborative, non-profit framework for improving Rockford's schools that coordinates community resources with the strategic plan of Rockford Public Schools District 205.