



High School Career Connections

March 12, 2021

- Recap of where we've been
 - We have been refining our vision of building a pipeline between our region's schools and our region's employers
- Discussion of work-based learning
 - We want to build clear on-ramps
 - By the end of high school, students should have awareness and experiences
 - Meeting the needs of local businesses is difficult for many reasons, especially mismatched timelines
- Discussion of potential next steps and opportunities
 - Explore Your Future (Erie County BAC)
 - Virtual career awareness toolkit, focused on major local industries
 - Could be expanded to a business visit with interviews, tours, and guided conversations
 - YouScience
 - Build into curriculum early in high school
 - Build experiences around results to gain career awareness
 - Figure out how we can make it work for students who have credit barriers
 - How do we use this to connect work experiences in high school (like working in fast food) to college and careers
 - Need to make sure everything we do fits strategically with Ohio Department of Education regulations
- Best practices from businesses
 - Shadowing and tours are great opportunities, as long as the size of the group of students stays small to keep the experience high-impact (and low-impact for the business' operations)
 - 10-15 students, depending on facility size and scheduling (and Covid restrictions)
 - Creating non-negotiables - Firelands Forward will work on this!

- Certain things that need to be a part of work-based learning opportunities, no matter what
 - Increases quality for students and host sites
 - Creates structure and proper cadence, and ensures necessary industry standards are met (ie. Safety, privacy)
 - Helps businesses say yes
 - Pursuing mentorship opportunities with students while they are still in school, even if they are not actively doing work-based learning with you
 - Set up for future relationship
- Senior JumpStart update
 - Based on YouScience data, bringing together students and professionals working in the industries that they are interested in
 - Will focus on personal stories of on-ramps and career paths
 - 16 panels, representing businesses in Erie, Huron, and Ottawa Counties
 - Follow-up to students will collect information on whether they want job opportunities pushed out to them
- Intriguing idea from Bonnie Nusser
 - Solve some of our affordable housing issue and upskill high school kids by having shop classes and skilled trades classes build housing in the area
- Homework
 - Reach out to each other before our next meeting!
 - We want to drill down on three industries that we want our students to be aware of
 - Next meeting will be April 16th, in person. More details to come