



Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!

Career and Educational Advisory Council (CEAC)

CEAC Mission: *To facilitate connections between the education system and the business community*
("Connecting Education & Employment")

Upper Peninsula Michigan Works! (UPMW) Career and Educational Advisory Council (CEAC) Meeting Minutes March 19, 2024

I. Call to Order

Ms. Ashley Nevins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm ET.

II. Roll call

The following members were present:

Ashley Nevins
Cindy Gallagher
Chris Standerford
Corey Soumis (virtual)
Emily Geiger
Erich Ziegler
Jannah Tumey
Kevin St. Onge (virtual)
Michael Mulligan (virtual)
Mike Smith
Tammy Rutledge (virtual)
Trent Bellinger

The following resources/guests were present:

Debb Brunell, UPMW
Betsy Erkkila, UPMW
Darren Widder, UPMW
Hanna Duckwall, UPMW
Amy Bergland, InvestUP

III. Public Comment

None.

IV. Approval of Agenda / Approval of Minutes

Ms. Emily Geiger made a motion to approve the CEAC agenda of March 19, 2024, with support from Mr. Chris Standerford, all in favor, motion passes. The CEAC minutes from December 5, 2023, were up for approval. Mr. Mike Smith made a motion to approve the December 5, 2023, meeting minutes, with support from Mr. Trent Bellinger, all in favor, motion passes.



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V. Mind Trekkers Highlights

The first Mind Trekkers event this year was a great success. Ms. Jannah Tumey highlighted the details of the Copper Trail Festival that took place on December 12, 2023. There were 800 students in attendance, 60 hands-on demonstrations/activities, and +20 organizations and departments exhibiting. It was an increase in attendance from the previous year. The second Mind Trekkers event of the year, the Hidden Coast Festival, is approaching on April 11 at Bay College. There are currently +500 students registered and 20 organizations and departments registered. There are still opportunities to get involved. The goal is to eventually reach all 7th grade students in the upper peninsula. This has been beneficial career exposure to these students.

VI. Teacher Externships/Career Connections

The CEAC discussed career connections and ways to get teachers involved in career exploration. A video was shown of a tour of an employer that was very successful. Connecting youth with opportunities has to be a priority for all of us. UPMW is going to be organizing events for teachers at local employers and having local career fairs. The CEAC is a good group to coordinate this effort. The goal is to connect youth to employers. Collaboration would allow for a richer experience. UPMW wants to supplement these events, not interfere. Avoid duplication. Work collaboratively as a team.

VII. MiSTEM Strategic Plans

The CEAC discussed the MiSTEM strategic plans. The Eastern upper peninsula (UP) need statements were: Educational supports for access to CS opportunities and technology, Teacher PD emphasizing STEM and 3P learning, and Build stronger connections between business/community organizations and education. The Central UP need statements were: CS and Cyber opportunities for students and teachers, Teacher PD leveraging authentic learning, and outside of school time learning opportunities. The Western UP need statements were: Math and 3P professional development opportunities for teachers, enriched STEM experiences and opportunities for students, and Connect business/industry with k12 education systems including focus on the MI-CDM. Mr. Standerford shared common themes and teacher learning opportunities. The entire plans were shared with the CEAC and made available online for them to dive into.



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VIII. Perkins Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) Summaries

We are required to share with the CEAC. Regions 1, 2, and 3 were looked at and discussed. The CLNA summaries were discussed. The CEAC looked at the core performance indicators, common barriers, potential Perkins activities, emerging occupations, programs identified for expansion, barriers for increasing CTE program options, and main topics identified by the Advisory Committee members that impact the labor market. There was also some discussion on metrics.

IX. CEAC Membership

Reminder: we need additional employer representatives on the CEAC. Reach out to Ashley Nevins, CEAC Chair, with any potential candidates.

X. Tour of DSISD CTE Programs

Mr. Trent Bellingar lead the CEAC members on a tour of the Dickinson Schoolcraft Intermediate School District. The CEAC members were able to see the classrooms and the activities the students participate in.

XI. Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next CEAC meeting will be held in June. An employer host site will be chosen soon.