

FUTUREFORCE NEBRASKA®
Steering Committee – Construction Pathway
Meeting Summary – May 2, 2006

10:30a-2:30p

Host: Mid-Plains – North Platte Campus

Attendees:

Bob Anderson, Gering High	Mary Katos, ADC
Julie Barger, ESU 16	Megan McGown, Cheyenne County Chamber
Bob Carlson, AOI	Keith Meyer, DOR
Kelly Christensen, Central CC	Jean Petsch, AGC-NE Building Chapter
Bruce Dowse, Mid-Plains CC	Ron Petsch, Southeast CC
Tony Glenn, Dept of Ed	Jim Row, Heavy Equipment Training Academy
John Hakonson, Sidney Public Schools	Ryan Runge, Potter-Dix Schools
Dale Janitscheck, Central CC	Deanna Trowbridge, Western NE CC
Lisa Jennings, FutureForce Coordinator	
Marilyn McGahan, Mid-Plains Community College	

1. Welcome & Introductions

Jean welcomed everyone and introductions were made. Jean emphasized that the group should have some action items and timeline by the end of the meeting.

2. FutureForce Overview

Tony Glenn provided an overview of the project, which is based on the restructuring of the Department of Ed, Career Education, focusing on the career clusters model. Five pathway projects are currently being piloted. Funding for the projects has been largely Perkins Incentive dollars and WIA funding with the Dept of Labor. The project has brought state agencies together working collaboratively for the economic development of the state.

3. Construction Pathway – Mission & Goals

Jean Petsch went over the Mission and Goals handout.

4. Pilot Site Selections & Key Players – Why Are We Here?

Jean Petsch explained to the group that the pilot sites would be collaborating with the local mix of business and industry, along with the state agencies, educational institutions, and heavy highway.

5. Employer Skills Requirements

Jean Petsch shared feedback from students and employers who have been involved with the internship programs at UNO, UNK and UNL. Jean also shared the current Nebraska “worth” of construction jobs. Some of the results for skills in demand:

Entry Level skills:	Employability/Soft Skills:
➤ Written & oral communications	➤ Team work
➤ Basic math	➤ Following verbal & written instructions (specs)
➤ Technology usage – word processing, spreadsheet, database	➤ Basic problem-solving skills
➤ Basic foundations of testing & inspection	➤ Time management
➤ Hands-on mechanical skills	➤ Organizational skills

College Graduate skills:	Wage Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Blueprint reading ➤ Basic construction methods ➤ Math ➤ Physics 	\$10-12/hr Average entry-level starting wage \$12-16/hr Community College education \$24-25/hr Carpentry skills \$43,000 Average starting wage for 4-year degree in Construction Management *These wages do not include approximately \$9/hr in benefits

6. Tools Available

Tony Glenn explained that the tools that will be used or developed will cover:

- **Contextual academics** for use in the industry
- **Employability skills** – Skills USA PDP (5 levels with certification and online components)
- **Technical skills** – basics of using tools (saw, CNC, etc)
- **Safety** – practice and training – Career Safe (lifelong learning skills) – students receive an OSHA certification card for 10 hour coursework; online courses available

7. NCCER Curriculum

Bob Carlson highlighted the National Construction Education & Research from AGC which is 10 years old and operates a 501c3b foundation. Bob serves on the board which represents various associations. The foundation resides at the University of Florida, M.E. Rinker School of Building Construction. Resources NCCER offered are core curriculum (ContREND learning series) of 50 craft areas; standardized, competency-based modules, computerized testing, training guides, e-learning and handouts. The program meets apprenticeship requirements. Instructor certification is also offered at three levels: instructor, master trainers, and master instructors. There are over 27,000 instructors in the program and over 3 million modules have been completed. Students progress through different levels based on the number of modules they complete. The program is recognized by contractors and has portability for its certifications and credentials.

8. Afternoon Session Overview Jean Petsch

Jean outlined the 3 target strategies for the groups to work on:

- Career Awareness
- Partnership Opportunities
- Target populations

9. Strategies and Activities Planning\Session Leaders

The following are outcomes and discussion points that came out of the afternoon session:

North Platte/Cozad	Scottsbluff/Gering	Sidney/Potter Dix
Awareness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Budget cuts – schools drop construction programs ➤ Educate school boards, administrators, counselors, parents – job availability in trades ➤ Teach contextual academics – improves numbers of interested students ➤ Seek grant opportunities ➤ Promote equal opportunities 	Awareness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Elementary/jr high – career fair ➤ Rural area ➤ Specialized studies ➤ Public awareness ➤ Value-added ➤ Guest speakers ➤ Presenters ➤ Counselors 	Awareness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Construction Career Day – invite Potter-Dix, Leyton, Sidney Schools ➤ Parent component – Show & Share - scholarship opportunities available ➤ Students are required to take CAD & Drafting as freshmen at Potter-Dix

North Platte/Cozad	Scottsbluff/Gering	Sidney/Potter Dix
Partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Use community resources and community colleges to sustain programs ➤ School-to-Work affiliation – important for funding ➤ Industry pays for certifications (PDP, CareerSafe) ➤ Tap into subcontractors & their respective organizations ➤ Connect w/universities & community colleges—contact their dropouts ➤ Connect with specialized training centers 	Partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ NDOR ➤ Area construction companies ➤ ESU ➤ \$ from state incentive grant ➤ DOL-NWD ➤ HETA – funds books, tuition, fees & tools ➤ Community colleges ➤ Business & industry ➤ Scholarships ➤ Job shadows 	Partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Heavy Equipment Academy ➤ Colorado (CCA) Career Day ➤ Eggings ➤ ADC ➤ Prairie Wolf Forge ➤ Street & Water Depts ➤ NDOR ➤ County Road & Bridge ➤ WNCC ➤ ESU ➤ Werner Enterprises ➤ Progress Rail ➤ ConvertABall ➤ Local contractors ➤ 21st Century (John Deere) ➤ Commercial Resins (tour?)
Curriculum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2+2+2 articulation ➤ Industry lobbies for expansion of T&I certifications ➤ Skills USA – Intracurricular – encourage schools to add to their current curriculum ➤ Use apprenticeships, when applicable 	Curriculum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Schools & colleges – understand needs ➤ School approved curriculum 	Curriculum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provide hands-on activities ➤ Demonstrations ➤ Tours ➤ Equipment on site
Wild Card: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Regulatory agencies – building permits, safety inspectors ➤ Contact lobbyists ➤ NCMS ➤ FutureForce website 	Targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Women ➤ ESU ➤ 2nd career adults 	Targets: Parents Youth

ACTION ITEM: Jean Petsch will mail the final meeting summary along with other career awareness materials from AGC to the group in the next couple of weeks.

Local Level Meeting: Jean asked each group to meet again within 30 days to continue working on their activity:

What is your project?

Who are your partners?

Address High School program changes and modifications

Connect with other school partners – counselors, English faculty, etc.

Next Meeting: August 7, 10:00am-12:30pm at Mid-Plains Community in North Platte