Illinois Pathways – Strategies

Illinois Pathways consists of two strategies...

1) Supports youth and adult programs that empower learners to explore their academic and career interests in STEM fields with an emphases on:
   a) Fully integrated academic and career instruction (Common Core, NGSS & CTE);
   b) Work-based learning; and
   c) Stackable credentials, both academic and industry.

2) Supports local education and training programs through the launch of transformative public-private partnership networks:
   a) Statewide, sector-based STEM Learning Exchanges; and
   b) Regional intermediaries.
Illinois Pathways – STEM Learning Exchanges

• Launched public-private networks in each of the identified STEM application areas
• Organized to support local implementation of P-20 STEM Programs of Study by improving coordination and reducing the transaction cost among network partners.
• Available to partner with and support K-12, postsecondary and workforce programs statewide.
Illinois Pathways – Summary of Learning Exchange Formation Process

Now that STEM Learning Exchanges are established they are each undergoing a strategic planning process to address initial network priorities.

1) Inventory partner activities and conduct gap analysis.
   a) Within the manufacturing group an inventory was taken of each corporate (e.g. Caterpillar), philanthropic (e.g. Boeing Foundation) and state investment in their field.

2) Execute top priorities as a start.
   a) The Manufacturing STEM Learning Exchange has identified K-12 teacher professional development and community college faculty training and certification as a top priority. In addition, the Exchange identified a statewide need to revamp and upgrade equipment as well as the need to maximize utilization of resources.

3) Develop portfolio of public-private investments to sustain network activities.
   a) The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity identified the Manufacturing Learning Exchange as a vehicle for a DOL Workforce Innovation Fund grant.
A regional intermediary is a public-private coordinating organization that includes representation from public institutions, employers and community stakeholders that support local implementation and delivery of pathways initiatives by:

1) Developing goals and strategies;
2) Aligning resources and coordinating service delivery; and
3) Ensuring partner performance and accountability.

Regional intermediaries can be implemented through an existing institution (e.g. community college, university, workforce board, etc...) or as a new organization (e.g. Alignment Rockford).
Illinois Pathways – Systemic Alignment of Regional Intermediaries

Functions
- Standardize and approve:
  - Career pathways
  - Curriculum
  - Assessments
  - Work-based learning
  - Credentialing
- Review labor market data
- Plan: Asset mapping
- Convene: Set vision and align community goals
- Broker: Foster and support partnerships
- Evaluate: Define and track outcomes
- Implement programs
- Recruit and support work-based learning experiences
- Administer evaluations and credentials
Illinois Pathways – Networks of Regional Intermediaries

**Functions**
- Standardize and approve:
  - Career pathways
  - Curriculum
  - Assessments
  - Work-based learning
  - Credentialing
- Review labor market data
- Plan: Asset mapping
- Convene: Set vision and align community goals
- Broker: Foster and support partnerships
- Evaluate: Define and track outcomes
- Implement programs
- Recruit and support work-based learning experiences
- Administer evaluations and credentials
Illinois Pathways – Recommendations for YCC Grantees

1) Define the region based on economic development objectives, labor market information and partnership institutions and organizations.

2) Conduct a baseline assessment of existing capacity, resources and challenges.

3) Prioritize sector focus that aligns with economic development objectives.

4) Identify existing organizations that may have the capacity to serve as a regional intermediary or establish the need for a new entity.

5) Secure meaningful employer engagement and buy-in from critical partners.

6) Establish connections with statewide employer networks and other regional intermediaries.