LEARNING THINK TANK

Meeting 2 | October 14, 2015

Review of New Collaborative Initiatives from Meeting 1

1. Collective effectiveness study: looking at initiatives that are currently taking place to identify where the gaps are
2. Central communication resource database: community partners can update database and search for services.
3. Skills gap closing intervention: get students in high school/post high school more interested in taking courses related to developing technical skills
4. Non-traditional industry think tank: Looking at how to educate individuals to fill gaps in various industries
5. Best practice research on out of school time: informing students about career opportunities, exposing students to potential careers. Enrichment opportunities by exposure to different prospects.
6. Community resource center: Having a one stop shop for individuals who may have different needs
7. Mobile marketing: students/parents may not know where to get information about learning opportunities, the mobile market would target areas where people gather.
8. Accelerated transportation plan: i.e. CPCC has many different campuses, create a better transportation plan to increase access to educational opportunities for students who are interested in taking classes across campuses.
9. Partnership with Faith-Based organizations: churches are places where communities gather, so target those locations for educational opportunities
10. Awareness campaign for current education programs: creating awareness around the existence of a service portal listing various services.
11. Higher education awareness program: creating awareness around higher education opportunities

Represented Organizations & Their Current Initiatives

Levine Museum:
Always looking for collaboration opportunities to bring people into the museum. Nuevolution exhibit is an example of that. Hosting dialogue with community around various issues, depending on interest.

LUESA:
Work with CPCC – reaching out to the veteran population to grow inspectors and provide job opportunities Cooperative extension: 4-H – youth development program focused on STEM initiatives. Work with park and rec specialists to have them deliver information and education to communities. Horticulture program – how to grow plants, take care of vegetables and be conscious of the environment and be sustainable. A program involved with learning how to incorporate healthy food into your diet.

Green Teacher Network:
Help schools engage in hands on learning. Teach teachers how to take classes outside by learning about food systems.
Historic landmarks commission: intensive research on individual properties. Provides lots of information on local history. Involved in property restoration i.e. mills. Focused on cultural resource management and history education.

Charlotte Area Health Education Center:
Prepare people for the workforce in the healthcare field. Health career education program – reaching out to excellent students or students who are interested in healthcare but don't have the exposure. Providing exposure through mentorships, lectures, tours of hospitals, provide networking opportunities – for underserved populations. Technology and patient literature – patient education through apps or presenting information in a way that patients who don't have a medical or clinical background will understand.

Central Piedmont Community College:
Work with CMS – career and college promise – students in high school can take college courses related to a specific pathway. Finish their high school and get a certificate that they can use for jobs. Have had difficulty promoting career tracks so need to expose students to various opportunities or options.

Davidson College:
Education scholars program – place Davidson students in CMS schools or various education programs. Community based learning – students take classes that puts students in the community.

Arts and Science Council:
field trip program – connecting students to the community in areas related to arts, science, and history. School grants – grant funding to every school in Mecklenburg County. The schools can then shop through an education provider directory – directory includes partners like individual artist organization and cultural organizations. Schools can decide how they want to spend their grant money in terms of opportunities in school and out of school. Out of school time program – studio 345 – targets students at risk of not graduating (health, behavior, grades, etc.) and use arts to motivate students. Using art to teach life skills and not just art for art sake.

Ada Jenkins:
LearnWorks – tutoring and enrichment program – serve 125 students from 3 different middle schools. Monday-Thursday focus on student academics. Students have to be referred by teachers or principals to be able to be part of the program. They have a guided reading program. Have an initiative promoting the 7 habits of highly effective teens. On Friday, they focus on fieldtrips – have clubs that range from cooking to karate. Partner with organizations so that students can apply what they learn in school to the real world. Also have guest speakers. Try to educate parents of students they serve. Human services department: offer financial assistance to adults and other services. Most of the clients come in needing assistance in finding employment or learning pre-employment skills.

Mecklenburg County Dept. of Social Services:
Community resource division – provide community based services. Social workers go out to the community and look at a family's needs to try and connect them to resources in the community. A program focused on children or caregivers that have been identified has having attendance issues in school.
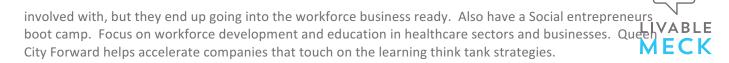
Cardinal Innovations:
Work with Medicaid populations. Provide training in relation to various roles in the healthcare industry i.e. peer support. Also provide Mental health first aid.

Queen City Forward:
Adult focused program. They also have a College Accelerator Program for college-aged entrepreneurs. Students live and build their company in uptown charlotte. They are taught concepts like lean startup and human centered design. Some students find out that entrepreneurship is not what they want to get

involved with, but they end up going into the workforce business ready. Also have a Social entrepreneurs boot camp. Focus on workforce development and education in healthcare sectors and businesses. Queen City Forward helps accelerate companies that touch on the learning think tank strategies.

Generation Nation:
Provide K-12 teachers with resources to help with teaching. Encourage teachers to teaching about local community, citizenship, history, background and ways they can encourage students to plug in as citizens and leaders. Provide opportunities for students to apply what they've learned to the real world. Provide education on local government processes and roles. Charlotte Mecklenburg Youth Council – high school student program where students can interact with decision makers.

Citizen Schools:
Middle school students. Run 5-day-a-week programs. Bring in members of the community to teach about what ever they are passionate about. 10-week program where adults come into teach, then at the 10 weeks, the students teach back about what they've learned. Other days they focus on academics and making sure those gaps are filled. Work closely with teachers to figure out where to focus their teaching. Once a week, their lessons focus on either character education or physical education, students can choose.

CMS:
Literacy initiative – pushing literacy as north star. North star reading partners – get employees in the classroom to read with students. School options – Hawthorne academy for health sciences (i.e.), and other options. STEMersion – send teachers into the STEM industry and shadow employers so that they can figure out what skills to teach their students.

Discovery Place:
Lots of programs through discovery place and partnerships with organizations. Want to focus on doing programs with communities, not for communities. A IMLS grant to work with the south boulevard corridor with Spanish speaking communities over time, to identify needs of the community to connect them with organizations. Discovery place education studio – inspire teachers and provide them with various opportunities and organizations to teach with.

Learning Help Centers of Charlotte:
Focused on South boulevard and central avenue, middle and elementary school kids. Students are often 1, 2, or 3 grades behind. Also partner with families of students in the program to provide them with education. Afterschool programs, literacy programs. Target areas with high concentration of immigrants and refugees but not only limited to these populations.

City of Charlotte:
Mayor's youth employment program – work with students in CMS high schools and train students in soft skills they can use in their employment. In the summer, students end up in internship, jobs, pre-apprenticeships with partners throughout the city. Also partnership with Charlotte Mecklenburg Youth Council.

New Collaborative Initiative Ideas *(see below for ideas from Meeting 1)*
Group 1 (Green Teacher Network, NC Extension, AHEC, Levine Museum)
- Post-High School Life Long Learning Collaborative
- Whole Child Learning Initiative: an effort to put all the pieces of an education together to best address the whole child

- Intergenerational Literacy Collaboration between older adults and younger children: allow children and retired seniors to learn from one another
- A more humanistic approach for planning for the built environment: allow for aging in place, promote protected bike lanes, think outside of zoning classifications
- Current List Adjustments
  - Align #3 with career technical education (CTE)
  - Relate #4 with proactive job skill development
  - #5a best practice research for after school time & #5b out-of-school time collaborative
  - #6 to be specific and at the neighborhood level, with a special focus on at-risk neighborhoods
  - #7 to have a specific focus on at-risk areas
  - #9 should be incorporated into the awareness or strategy of each collaborative initiatives
  - #10 & #11 grouped with #1 & #2

Group 2 (Davidson College, CPCC, Ada Jenkins)
- Parent education for their children's education: educating parents on their children's pre-k through 12 and post-secondary education choices, focusing on those families with first generation post-secondary students
- It can be difficult for individuals to get jobs when they have criminal records from childhood or young adulthood. How can this issue be addressed? Promote ex-defender programs (potentially through partnerships with technical colleges and private employers)
  - Idea: Prisoner Entrepreneurship Program with Post-Incarceration Support (Potential Partners: Social Venture Partners, Queen City Forward)
- Current List Adjustments
  - Combine: #2, 10, 11, 6 & 7 under "awareness…"
  - Keep #1
  - Eliminate #4

Group 3 (Ada Jenkins, DSS, Cardinal Innovations, Queen City Forward, Generation Nation)
- Extension of #1 and #7: identify & address learning styles to make sure we're educating *everyone;* make sure to view all initiatives from the perspective of the learner
- Extension of #1: be careful not to assume what is "best" for those we serve; make sure we understand their needs and interests; involve the target population with the creation of the program

Group 4 (CMS, Discovery Place, Citizen Schools, City of Charlotte Youth Program)
- #6: expand resource center to be a toolkit of resources to address #3; how can we leverage all that is available to support pre-k to 12 students (i.e. digital literacy and 21st Century skills); "Here are the 10 options we have for digital education, what is best for your classroom?"
- Higher education preparation for teachers; better preparing teachers for the classroom
- Combine #1 and #2; make sure if we're talking about effectiveness, we're taking into account qualitative and quantitative measures; linking the "who" in #1 with the "what" in #2
- #7, 10, 11 combine into a broader awareness/marketing initiative

Collaborative Initiative Ideas from Meeting 1

#	New Collaborative Initiative Idea	The Group that Developed the Idea in Meeting 1
1	Collective Effectiveness Study to identify who is addressing issues, where, and with whom	Kamille Bostick, Lucille Joe, David Hinds, Sue Wheldon, Edna Chirico, Nelson McCaskill
2	Central Communication Resource to serve as a searchable database of all the resources/partners for organizations and those they service	
3	Skills-Gap Closing Intervention	Jake House, Jay Potter, Holly Blackman, Nicole McKinney
4	Non-Traditional Industry Think Tank	
5	Best Practice Research on Out of School Time	
6	Community Resource Center	
7	Mobile Marketing (marketing of resources in non-traditional spaces in the County, such as barbershops, grocery stores, faith-based organizations, recreation complexes, etc.)	
8	Accelerated Transportation Plans (to increase access to resources and opportunities)	
9	Partnerships with Faith-Based Organizations	Kaye McHan, Steve Partige, Bob Krajeski, Melvin Jewett, Audrey Singer
10	Awareness Campaign for Current Education Programs	
11	Higher Education Awareness Program	