



MWCA WINTER MEETING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK

Question 1: What is something the current workforce system does well that deserves more attention or resources?

- Grantwriting/diversifying revenue streams
- Promoting entrepreneurship
- Emerging Workforce/Youth Programs (work readiness, summer jobs, career counseling, career exploration)
- Serving employers
- Serving the universal customer (jobseekers)
- Establishing partnerships based on need rather than dollars/funding
- Connections to education
- Soft skill training
- Qualified staff
- FastTRAC- needs further investment
- Creative and innovative
- Responsive
- Pre-vocational training
- Due to WIBs, we do have local business at the table
- Creating alignment with business and education
- Facilitating discussion (we need to do more of this)
- Work-based learning
- Career counseling
- Addressing the mental health issues of customers. Need to partner more with local mental health practitioners
- Job development
- Investment in the infrastructure

Question 2: What is something the current system should stop doing or focus less time on?

- RFPs; giving away funds to entities not aligned with the WIBs
- Regulations/paperwork/red tape
- Stop writing local plans- only go on shelf
- Neglecting to fund infrastructure
- SNAP – fund it or don't do it
- Need to stop duplication in business services- need better alignment
- Need to stop having to fight for our existence and defending the system- fund the system at a level to meet needs.
- Duplicating services that others are providing; increase partnerships
- Inefficiencies resulting from multiple entities in a WFC
- Update previous planning rather than creating new ones
- Stop defining MFIP activities so narrowly

- Stop operating TAA independent of the system
- Stop raiding the Workforce Development Fund
- Stop State and Federal SCSEP programs

Question 3: What is one thing you resolve to do in 2014 that will further the work of your board?

- Encourage more businesses to hire youth
- Work on mitigating the retirement wave
- Increase career awareness with K12/youth
- Developing soft skills
- Career pathway for Manufacturing- develop 'Manufacturing 101' and enhance outreach to the public; work closer with Economic Development
- Engage at a national level to get WIA Reauthorized
- Have Joint Powers Board work more closely with the Workforce Council
- Expand High School Career Counseling by WF staff statewide
- Develop professional learning communities
- Increase system visibility
- Increase social media presence
- Continue/strengthen partnerships with other agencies
- Increase state/local alignment
- Connect WIB with education/K12 in a creative way