

## **WEAC Meeting Minutes**

### **May 11, 2021**

**In attendance:** Callen McInnes, Jenni Wagner, Dr. Alecia Mobley, John Preston, Pat Larson, Pat Dale, Lisa Howes, Elsie Kreuger

**Welcoming Activity:** Attendees shared something they are looking forward to this summer. Callie-getting outside; Jenni-time with grandbabies; Dr. Mobley-ESY & trip to Hawaii; Lisa-bathroom & closet renovation; John-boating/fishing; Pat L.-hosting people at her cabin; Pat D.-attending son's wedding reception; Elsie-going to the Outerbanks on the East coast;

**Meeting Minutes** from 4/13/2021 were approved.

#### **Job Olympics Updates:**

- **Jenni shared updated data ([JO Wrap Up](#)):** Tiara Woods and Sarah Wioda tied for Overall Job Olympic champions. The Overall 2nd place winner was Joe Carr and Jaylen Vongphachann was the Overall 3rd place winner. Prizes were also awarded to students who placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd in individual events.
- Pat Dale asked if the work done by the advisory committee this year (of fine tuning the evaluative tools/rubrics used for each of the events) was helpful. Callie and Jenni both reported that it was helpful. The work guided instruction in the classroom for both WBL instructors prior to the event. Volunteers on the committee also reported finding the rubrics easy to use and helpful.
- The plan is to move back to an “in person” event again next year if possible while still using the digital format with volunteers (ex-forms/feedback submitted via computer, student applications/resumes submitted digitally prior to the in-person part of the competition).
- Committee members also like the idea of adding events, noting that keeping entry level competitions (job readiness) and adding higher level competitions to showcase problem-solving skills would provide students who have mastered the job readiness skills other ways to complete. The Committee brainstormed ways to expand competitions:
  - Pat L. suggested using game show formats such as “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire” or a “Quiz Bowl” - could be used to focus on Employee Rights types of questions. Others thought a game show format could be both fun and conducive to showcasing soft skills (communication, teamwork, problem-solving, professionalism, customer service, conflict resolution, etc.).
  - John P. shared that the soft skill most focused on with his students in the auto tech course at HTC is problem-solving (ex-”What do I need to do to help my customer?”)

- Elsie shared a way to think about soft skills for both teaching and observing them in a Job Olympics event: Students, when given a work scenario, are asked to: 1. Identify the feeling of the other. 2. Identify the problem 3. Develop possible solutions 4. Identify work needing to be done to reach resolution. 5. Follow up through resolution.
- Callie discussed the possibility of using some of the project-based activities done throughout the school year as a way to showcase problem-solving skills (ex-students create a slide presentation that demonstrates learning/problem-solving skills developed through a project).
- Pat D. wondered, “What would it be like if a student trained another student?”
- Dr. Mobley encouraged Callie and Jenni to continue to think about ways student voice is part of this process. “What do students think about the experience?” “What would they find most relevant and useful?” She also encouraged continued thought about, “How do we continue to share the work being done?”

#### **Other business**

- Callie asked the committee for any ideas re: businesses to work with (internships, job shadowing, mentorships, etc.) moving forward.
  - Pat D. brought up the Chamber of Commerce. Callie reported that Matt Caruso from the high school attends the Chamber meetings every month.
  - Pat also wondered if there are possibilities with the city of Richfield. Callie discussed the opportunities Chris W. has provided re: volunteering at the ice arena and wondered about exploring summer employment possibilities as well via Parks and Rec. Pat shared there is a new tactile friendly (soft-surfaced) park going in next to Augsburg Library. There has been talk of having some programming for kids with special needs once it goes in. He wondered if there might be possibilities there in the future as well.
- Thoughts shared about meeting time/format this year; members like afternoon times over early morning for next year. The group also thinks meeting virtually makes it easier for members to attend. There was some discussion around the merits of meeting in person maybe once or twice a year.

**Meeting adjourned.**

**Thank you ALL for your contributions. We’ll look forward to reconnecting in fall of 2021!**