

# WDB APRIL 13, 2016

## SECTOR PARTNERSHIP PANEL

### Guests:

- **Dave Carlson**, Manufacturing Sector Partnership
- **Lanny Hass**, Thompson Valley High School
- **Jonas McKinley**, Healthcare Sector Partnership
- **Lynn Vosler**, Front Range Community College
- **ShaJuana Williams**, Colorado Workforce Development Council

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### Sector Partnerships Overview

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- In order to meet the talent needs of Colorado's businesses, educational institutions and training providers must align their programs with the needs of businesses. Ideally, Industry led sector partnerships are the best vehicle for aligning workforce development, education, and economic development initiatives with industries' needs in an effective, results-driven manner.

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### Panelists

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#### NoCo Manufacturing

- Making things make things happen. We produce goods for all types of industries from medical electronics to beverage manufactures. We had significant discussions on what's preventing business growth and separated it into three initiatives:
  1. Networking - better connect the manufacturing community.
  2. Sharing best practices – sharing best practices will further the interests of manufacturers in northern Colorado.
  3. Change perceptions on what careers in manufacturing look like and education and skills required.

We put our name on issues that we are most passionate about and it flipped the leadership, it really became us leading the charge and we were the voice creating solutions. It's completely free to join the partnership. However, we work hard to be project driven and ask industry to get involved to accomplish our goals.

- To help prepare the next generation of manufacturers, we just held our first regional advisory discussion. The Perkins Act requires an industry advisory committee to evaluate the curriculum. It can be difficult to have good industry participation. We got a bunch of manufactures and schools together to discuss industry needs. We're working hard to be involved in developing curriculum.
- Manufacturing Rocks! tours have been hugely successful, this is a great example of the public and private sector coming together. We hear constantly how much of an impact it's had.
- One thing the WDB could do is help us reach out to Weld County manufacturers.
- See our [Nocomfg.com](http://Nocomfg.com) website to learn more and to get involved.

## Health Sector Partnership

- We started out as industry driven. We got a diverse group together to discuss their priorities. We rolled all the goals up and categorized them into our four key areas.
  1. Education of the public on health care
  2. Coordination of a larger behavioral health solution for the area
  3. Increasing workforce skills relative to diversity awareness
  4. Changing state regulations relative to PASRR (preadmission screening and resident review). This is required when someone is being discharged from the hospital. This out of date regulation can harm the care of patients as they await paperwork to transfer them to another facility. We are working to get this changed at the state level.
- We recently discussed the role of the public partners. They are many roles for public partners including: help write grants, obtain funding, and outreach and awareness. We appreciate the help and continued support of all our partners.
- There is a huge demand for more Medical Assistants. They are being utilized in a expanded ways and we're discussing training/certification needs.
- We have over 30 health care entities and 10 public partners engaged and are looking to expand. The WDB can help us recruit additional partners. The more voices the better, we are looking for voices from the smaller communities and private sector health care partners. Those not sure how to get involved can reach out to me or visit our new website: [nocohealthsector.org](http://nocohealthsector.org).

## Education

- The importance and impact of the sector partnerships for public partners is access. Partnerships are a much more efficient ways to get access to industry rather than knocking on every door.
- Being a part of these partnerships have helped us develop/rewrite curriculum such as what we're working on for Medical Assistants. We heard from partnerships that they needed more manufacturing training so we were able to partner with industry to expand our machining and manufacturing education and make them more relevant.
- I think that what's happening in the sector initiatives should drive workforce initiatives.
- For me I think it's flipped from a competitive effort to a cooperative environment. I represent the district and my students and have the opportunity to share resources with other partners, we want to encourage that.
- We value personalized pathway options to help our students succeed. We want to ensure students are college, career and community ready.
- We want to replicate classrooms to be more engaging like the Manufacturing Rocks! Tours. We are working to become more project based.
- Current career/concurrent preparatory options include: manufacturing, welding, construction, agriculture and more.
- We're incorporating Cross Cutting Considerations of essential skills/professional skills, technical skills, work-based learning and awareness and recruiting.

### **State Support**

- The state supports the partnerships in a variety of ways such as sector summits and networking calls.
- Our mission is to help create and sustain a business led Colorado talent system.
- The Colorado Workforce Development Council has added new positions to help accomplish the mission.
- We're currently working on having tech forums across the state to engage with industry and sector partnerships.
- There are grants available this year to help fund sectors. Please visit our website to learn more.

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### **Questions/Comments**

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**Q. At PSD and perhaps at other schools we're making an effort to give these kids experiences in middle skill occupations but I worry when they are ready to take secondary classes in these fields do we have the necessary teachers?**

A. It's definitely a challenge and we do have folks who are working on it. We've found some good instructors, who are passionate about their trade and willing to teach.

**Q. In Connecting Colorado are the job descriptions accurate? Do they really reflect the skills needed for these jobs? Is that something the Workforce Center can do?**

A. The employer creates the job description. The Workforce Center can help make sure they have what they need. The other side of a good job description is making sure they have the skilled people they need. The Workforce Center can help with job seeker assessments, certificates and more.

A. The partnerships are all working on workforce issues in multiple ways including development of career pathways.

**Q. What can the WDB do to help address these issues?**

A. Help us connect, we need a lot of constituency. The louder the voices coming together the more passionate people involved who want to part of a project, the more we can do.

A. Encourage businesses to plug-in. In addition to improving shared problems they can plug in with the public sector to find out what services they provide.

A. Continued resources – not necessarily funds but services such as Manufacturing Rocks tours.

A. Help with grants and obtaining endorsements.

At the Manufacturing Partnership meetings there is a lot of energy and dedicated people involved. When there is a call to action encourage them to reach out to the WDB for connections.

There is more than one path to success. Schools are starting to embrace the idea that the traditional path is not the only or best. Success requires multiple pathways.

Jerry noted that under WIOA the WDB is asked to incorporate more active participation with sectors. The WDB will work on meeting follow-up items and discuss how the Board can better engage in the partnerships. The WDB doesn't need to be mini sectors but can help facilitate what's already going on.

