

Information Technology Services Industry Council
PIPELINE Program - Department of Labor and Industry
October 23, 2018 * 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

Welcome and introductions: Annie Welch

PIPELINE Program updates: Annie Welch

1. Launch of [Speaker Series](#):
 - a. May 24 focused on different generations in the workplace;
 - b. September 13 focused on leadership development within organizations;
 - c. December 6 will focus on diversity and inclusion.
2. Presented at or participated in 83 meetings with Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development Groups, Employers, etc. focusing on information technology;
3. Publication of [tools to help develop and track dual training programs](#);
4. Kick-off of [Community Workforce Conversations](#) all around the state over the next several months;
 - a. Mankato: October 16
 - b. St. Cloud: October 30
 - c. Marshall: November 14
 - d. Rochester: November 27
 - e. Alexandria: December 3
 - f. Bemidji: December 11
 - g. Duluth: December 18

*Thank you to Senator Senjem for his willingness to share information and help promote these meetings.
5. Welcome to Amanda Follmer, PIPELINE Program Specialist.

Information Technology Industry Council Updates – Annie Welch and Kathleen Gordon

The PIPELINE team is a resource for employers. The meeting began a discussion on Industry Trends and Employers noted new developments in the industry:

- In general, IT has not seen critical shortages as of yet, but employer partners agree that getting the word out about IT careers in all industries is imperative for the future of the industry;
- With a successful economy, businesses have looked to expand IT avenues in almost every industry;
- With a successful economy many organizations are also looking to make organization-wide IT program improvements (i.e. Office 365 migration);
- Many employers are looking more and more into automating processes, and/or considering ways to replace people power roles with automation for careers that are in a critical workforce shortage (i.e. welding, machining, wiring, etc.); and
- There was some discussion about the movement of employees in the IT industry with the question centering on, “what if they move on to other businesses after I educate them”? An IT Industry Council member shared, “but what will happen if you don’t educate them”? This was a great question to ponder as we moved into our next discussion.

Our next discussion with attendees asked, “Why are people drawn to Information Technology, and how can the dual training model draw people into Information Technology?”

Responses:

- Information Technology is constantly developing and changing- it’s exciting!
- Information Technology is always on the cutting edge.
- There are nicely formed career paths for someone in IT across all industries.

- IT allows a learner to obtain a degree in a relatively short amount of time for a well-paying role.
- Families across cultures have looked to IT as a family career choice.

The IT Industry Council stated that the dual training model can draw people into IT by:

- Becoming more engaged with high school students by informing them about all the opportunities in IT.
- Working with PIPELINE to market our “earn as you learn approach”.
- Highlight the options for career progression in IT while also focusing on the embedded nature of IT across all industries.

New Tracking Tools and Related Instruction Inventory Updates – Annie Welch

New tracking tools and related instruction updates: Annie reflected on the new on-the- job training tracking tools available on our website and discussed that hopefully all occupations will be updated with tracking tools available by early next year. Annie also highlighted the updated related instruction inventory and invited educators to assist in reviewing the inventory. Please reach out to our team if you do not see your training program listed.

Competency Council determine the eligible occupations:

- Currently have twelve eligible occupations/pathways
 - Security Analyst
 - Service Desk/Front Line Support or Computer User Specialist
 - Software Developer
 - Web Developer – Front End
 - Web Developer – Back End
 - Programming Pathway
 - Information Security Pathway
 - Strategic Planning – Business Management Pathway
 - Software Testing Quality Assurance Pathway
 - Infrastructure Administration Pathway
 - Information Management and Analytics Pathway
 - Information Support and Services Pathway
- We are not planning on adding any other eligible occupations/pathways as this time, but would welcome assistance reviewing current occupations. Employers are welcome to contact us at any time to participate in the Competency Council work.

Dual-Training grant updates: Megan Fitzgibbon

The next Dual Training Grant for new and existing employers will open for application on April 1, 2019 and close on May 17, 2019. (Contact Jacquelynn.Mol.Sletten@state.mn.us at the Office of Higher Education for more information). OHE awarded over \$2 million in 2018 to 41 different companies.

Next Information Technology Industry Council Meeting

Please save the date for February 21, 2019 from 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. for an in-person or webinar meeting opportunity.