

**Youth Council
January 8, 2014
4:00 p.m.
First State Bank of Mendota
Mendota, IL**

Mission Statement

Northwest Central Illinois Works' mission is to work hand-in-hand with business, service, government, education and non-profit organizations to enable workers to work and businesses to compete.

Agenda

Call to Order

Roll Call/Introductions

Selection of a Chairperson

New Business

- ◆ Discussion Regarding Committee Structure and Projects/Tasks (Enclosed)
- ◆ Selection of Regular Meeting Day and Time
- ◆ Discussion of Issues Affecting Youth Today and Possible Projects to Address Them
- ◆ Review of career preparation/life skills program for the Safe School and Circuit Breaker School

Other Business

- ◆ Membership List (Enclosed)

Public Comments

Adjournment

YOUTH COUNCIL

Goals:

1. To facilitate a comprehensive, coordinated youth development system in the NCI Works region, and engage stakeholders in the process.
 - a. Work in the Real World (WITRW) events will provide a roundtable for businesses and teachers/guidance counselors to get together and discuss issues and challenges each faces in their respective environments.
 - b. The North Central Illinois Logistics Council continues to promote their recruiting program in the high schools.
2. To actively support all community efforts and activities that address the overall needs of youth (e.g., employment, educational, financial, social, personal).
 - a. With input from the Youth Council, BEST, Inc. adapted their Soft Skills Training Workshops to target high school students.
 - b. Working Career Preparation/Life Skills Program with Circuit Breaker and Life Skills Schools.
3. To promote work-based initiatives that build linkages between employers and youth, providing them with occupational information, work readiness advice and hands-on experiences where possible.
 - a. Speakers Bureau
 - b. BEST, Inc, and Illinois Valley Community College and Sauk Valley Community College, all affiliate partners of NCI Works, collaborated on an effort to host a Manufacturing and Engineering Summer Camp on each campus for youth ages 13-17. The camps were designed to introduce high school students to careers in manufacturing through an interactive and hands-on experience. Nineteen (19) students attended the week-long camps and were exposed to the entire manufacturing process, from engineering and design to manufacturing and final fabrication/construction of parts. One day was set aside for industry tours, and college credit was awarded upon completion of the project.
 - c. “Manufacturing the Future”: Initiative to raise the awareness of manufacturing as career opportunities on the part of educators. BEST, Inc., IVCC/Carl Perkins Program, Starved Rock Associates for Vocational and Technical Education (SRAVTE), the LaSalle County Regional Office of Education and Gerald Wazkowiak, who represents American Nickeloid on NCI Works, worked together to put on a one-day program that presented labor market information on potential careers and provided on-site tours of 2 manufacturing companies.

4. To foster community partnerships which will help us attain our goals.
 - a. In the fall of 2004, several agencies and educational institutions attended a one-day seminar entitled "*A Framework for Understanding Poverty*". The purpose of this workshop was to make the audience members aware of the impact poverty has on individuals, families and communities. As part of a coordinated effort by SRAVTE and the NCI Works Youth Council, two follow-up workshops were held simultaneously, one for educators and one for agency and other youth-related stakeholders. The workshop hosted by the Youth Council brought representatives from 15 different social agencies together to begin developing service strategies to improve the situation for those affected by poverty. Participants from both workshops greatly benefited from the practical approaches that were presented, and made a commitment to continue working together to address this issue.
 - b. Certificate of Employability Program, a program promoting a set standards for employability as recommended by business and industry, was presented in both local workforce areas prior to the merger. In LWIA #4, schools in Ogle and Stephenson Counties were involved, with chambers in Whiteside County pushing for it in their area. In LWIA #12 DePue High School Superintendent approached NCI Works to ask for their support in launching this initiative with his school. Mendota High School was contacted about the COE Program and expressed an interest. Follow-ups will be conducted with both schools.