



Gateway Outcomes Committee

9 February 2017

The Committee met on 18 January 2017 and members Mr. Daniel Ridley, Mr. Joe Creaghead, Mr. Paul Whalen and Dr. Julie Smith-Morrow were present. Staff liaison Dr. Patricia Mahabir and Board chair Mr. Ken Paul were also present.

We discussed the history of this Committee, first created in 2014 with the purpose of aligning community needs with Gateway opportunities. During 2014-2016, the Committee asked to look at potential indicators of whether Gateway was meeting community needs including: (1) Enrollment information; (2) Gateway graduates that fill regional manufacturing positions; (3) Identification of related metrics for headcount, total credit hours, average credit hours, total credentials earned, companies served, River Cities participation rate and FAME program participation; and (4) Aligning GCTC goals (2016-2022 Strategic Plan) with community needs.

The Committee is aware that not all metrics are created equal and that some are easier to measure than others. We discussed about “hard” metrics i.e. FAME and River Cities enrollments both of which are tied to specific initiatives. We distinguished these examples from the “softer”, more difficult to measure, i.e. transportation, FTE, headcount, average credit hours, and retention rates. We discussed other issues including Trish’s observation that employers’ needs may be hard to discern if they don’t value degreed employees. Joe asked do we need to restructure programs to meet employers’ needs? Could we seek input in restructuring programs as we did with the manufacturing community in developing the Enhanced Operator Program?

Trish provided a Strategic Plan Alignment document, a draft, working plan derived from the Strategic Plan. Moving from CPE priorities down to KCTCS strategic goals, Gateway strategic goals and strategic priorities, what follows at the next level are strategic objectives. The Committee would like to drill down at this level and consider ways to measure progress toward the stated objectives.

The Committee members look forward to working with Dr. Figueroa in identifying metrics that are linked to community needs and GCTC strategic goals. We’d like Dr. Figueroa to review previously established metrics and weigh in on whether they are good indicators of strategies and objectives to address community’s needs? What new metrics could indicate progress toward this goal? How do we incorporate metrics that could be derived from the strategic objectives?

The next meeting of the Outcomes Committee will be on Tuesday, 21 March 2017 at 4:00 pm.

Submitted by Julie Smith-Morrow, Committee Chair