Partnering & Collaborating

Create "'win-win' relationships with all partners, an effort that requires genuine and active commitment to career pathway program goals and finding intersections among the individual and sometimes diverse goals of the partners"

(Bragg, D., et al., 2007, p. 20)

Questions to ask: (get to know local agencies, other education providers, community-based organizations, employers, etc.)

- Who might partner with you?
- Who can productively partner with you?
- Who is willing to partner with you?
- What does each partner contribute?
- What role can each partner play?
- What role will each partner play?
- Who needs to know what you are doing? (doesn't mean that the organization needs to be involved but might be important for local support)

Set Goals

- Overarching goal that everyone can agree upon and support
- Finite and concrete goals and accompanying steps
- Determine roles and responsibilities according to availability and resources (make sure not to overlap; be clear on who does what)
- Schedule regular meetings (single-partner and all-partner meetings)
    - Informational
    - Planning

Strategic roles for partners: For example…

- Access to new or difficult to reach populations (e.g., local church or community center)
- Input on programming (e.g., review curriculum, student placement, student services, disability services, instruction, certificate development, employee feedback)
- Fill in services or expertise (e.g., linguistic issues, advertising, case management)

NOTE: Examples were provided from the Pennsylvania Career Pathways Planning Guide, pgs. 9-10 (provided in packet on Oct. 18) and the resource listed below:

Bragg, D., Bremer, C., Castellano, M., Kirby, C., Mavis, A., Donna, S., & Sunderman, J. (2007). A cross-case analysis of career pathway programs that link low-skilled adults to family-sustaining wage careers. Minneapolis, MN: National Research Center for Career and Technical Education. Pgs. 21-22 & 36-37
Access at: http://136.165.122.102/UserFiles/File/pubs/Career_Pathways.pdf