

SkillUp Washington Generation Work

Generation Work Core Partners Meeting January 25, 2017

SkillUp Washington hosted a Generation Work partnership meeting at South Seattle College's Georgetown campus (SSC). Core Partners of Generation Work were the primary attendees, in order to focus on the rollout of SkillUp's Generation Work Strategic Framework. Attendees included staff from SSC, Port Jobs, Seattle Education Access, King County Employment and Education Resources, Puget Sound Education Service District, Community Center for Education Results, and the Office for Superintendent of Public Instruction. The meeting focused on the following key questions:

1. *What are your top 1 or 2 early highlights, related to Generation Work?*
2. *Where do you see opportunities and challenges in the coming year?*
3. *Where do you see alignment/opportunity with other areas of your work?*
4. *What is the top issue/challenge that you see our partnership facing?*

Top Generation Work Highlights

The Generation Work partners shared information about their programs and opportunities to align resources more strategically. Early highlights include:

- Continued progress towards executing the high school completion MOU between Port Jobs, Highline College and Highline Public Schools (includes both Open Doors and High School 21+);
- The launch of Mecha WA (which targets 18-29 year olds for mechatronics career pathways) and the leveraging of SkillUp's Manufacturing Advancement Pathways Project to provide additional math support to young adults at SSC with low basic math skills;
- Staffing the Airport Jobs Center with an SEA navigator to work with 18-29 year olds working or seeking work at the airport who are also interested in enrolling in college; and
- Scheduling a site tour of the Airport Jobs Center for KCEER Peer Outreach workers.

Current/Underway Opportunities

Generation Work partners described efforts to recruit and serve young adults in:

- Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee pathways (e.g. Manufacturing Academy);
- Mecha Ready (Mecha WA entry-level training);
- Airport Jobs;
- American Apprenticeship Initiative pathways; and
- Seattle Education Access.

Alignment Opportunities

Generation Work partners identified the need to:

- Share recruitment opportunities, press releases and flyers well in advance of activities.
- Coordinate tours of their programs for referral partners.

- Share results of youth assessments/interviews and implications on evolving screening and referral strategies, if applicable. They also identified the need to later examine whether these strategies hold up based on later analyses of young adult progress in different programs.
- Ensure that youth subcommittees/meeting processes are non-duplicative, and aligned, but do not get too big to manage.
- Ensure that King County, SEA, Port Jobs, South Seattle College etc. understand each other's navigator roles, and approaches, including identifying which approaches offer case management, tutoring, job development and post-placement follow-up.
- Identify clear, ongoing opportunities for Roadmap partners to connect young people to TDL and Manufacturing pathways, including the breadth of jobs available both at the airport and within manufacturing/aerospace.
- Discuss ways to coordinated employer engagement and recognition.
- Develop a more refined process for disseminating, jointly reviewing and using results of learning and links to other resources
- Ensure that tools to connect youth/young adults to social media, etc. are known to all system partners.
- Highlight alumni who successfully find employment through one of the featured Generation Work pathways, focusing on what happens after they find work and what they did to keep the job.
- Develop shared process/template for capturing success stories across programs/pathways.
- Share assessment tools, digital resources for young adults and other tools designed to expose young people to careers, and job opening information.

Next Steps

Generation Work partners recommended that next step efforts include:

- Sharing updates regarding the above programs, including identification of gaps, challenges and successes.
- Identifying the status of MOUs and MOAs between different programs.
- Discussing the evolving status of the AU High School 21+ start-up efforts.
- Identifying someone who can train Generation Work partners on Ability to Benefit criteria and identify how and when this resource should/could be used.
- Researching how BFET can be used more effectively with young adults.
- Learning more about the Puget Sound Educational Service District Race Equity Tool or other resources that promote equity analyses.
- Learning more from Laurie Shannon about Mentoring Works Washington.
- Determining when co-enrollment across programs makes sense.
- Sharing best practices about tools and upcoming trainings that help young people.
- Developing success stories highlighting job placement/retention with youth as target audience.

The next Core Partner meeting will be in April at the Airport. The next CCER Opportunity Youth Advisory Group meeting will be held in February, and will be organized as a joint meeting between Generation Work, OYAG, and other related efforts to increase alignment and coordination between partners.