

2009 VPS Conference Best Practices in Career Academies

Group Discussions – ideas/suggestions for future conferences

Group 1

- Strong Professional Development Plan designed specially to support and guide career academies – front end preparation
- Team building (teachers – students)
- District personnel assigned as Point of Contact for academies
- Administration and guidance as part of the team and part of training
- 1st year of academy should be dedicated to planning, take development slow and steady
- Spread the news and share the success data of academies to the non-believers
- Identity crisis, scream the theme to build belonging
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Group 2

- Cohort Scheduling
- Team Building – meeting and planning as a team
- Multiple Articulation Agreements – providing options and connections across grades (middle school) and postsecondary levels (career/technical/community colleges/universities)
- Positive Marketing: within school, among different stakeholders
- Student Selection: Enrolling students who will positively contribute to academy dynamics
- Proactive Faculty: Enthusiastic marketing, recruitment, development
- Oversight Committee: District Advisory Board consists of business and industry leaders – outreach to community org.
- Detailed List of Resources: Document availability pre-committee at meetings and after meetings, facilitate networking and support

Group 3

- Cohort/sharing students
- Time to plan
- Advisory board (real world)
- Intervention plans
- Open door
- Teacher selection/team
- Continuous staff development
- Student involvement and input

- Other Areas to Explore
- Electronic communication marketing, students Twitter, Face book (b/t ?)
- Don't say "no" to say "no"
- Offsite Academies??
- Group 4
- Project-based learning in academy class
- Alternate assessment w/rubrics and portfolios
- Scheduling
- Recognize that a great academy evolves
- Allow academy diversity, great academies start at the school not district
- Standards are not a checklist but are a guide
- Actively involve advisory board including postsecondary institutions
- District support

Ideas for Next Year

More collaboration Choice and CTE

Integrating Middle School

Celebrating Success of Academies within buildings

Include APC's from Academies (also Guidance)

Presentation on Small Learning Communities

Input from students

Breakout Sessions for groups (APC/Guidance etc.)

Include industry perspective/representative

Session to discuss industry certification (How to add to list, navigation through lists, etc.)

Next Conference ---- Last week of June 2010 – (Location TBD)