



SNIPPET

Engaging Community Partners to Join the Youth Council

Youth Council: San Diego School-to-Career Youth Council

Element: Comprehensive Approach

Function: Convening Local Leadership to Take Action

Subject: Convening Local Leadership to Take Action

The Challenge: The San Diego School-to-Career Youth Council is about all youth, regardless of funding sources. Their mission is “To build a universal access workforce development system for youth.” “What do we want for our youth?” was the primary question driving their strategic planning. A crucial follow-on question was “How can the Youth Council function best in order to create the supports we want for our young people?”.

The Practice and Evidence: The Youth Council identified several practices that helped them work towards accomplishing their mission.

First, they found that a diverse membership of a wide variety of community leaders to be critical to building a system for all youth. Business leaders were especially valuable participants. Members from the businesses sector helped move the work of the Council along, and without them, Council processes became stalled. They also found that staff members who had experience in the business sector added a real bonus.

Second, they incorporated a powerful partnership that already existed. Using the School-to-Career partnership as the Council core, they transferred School-to-Career activities to the Youth Council and held an intentional focus on education.

Third, they recognized that having an effective Council committee structure would help them carry out their work. In the system they created, the full Youth Council meets every other month and the executive committee, a small, highly engaged group of five, meets monthly. Meetings then started to be focused on progress and action.

Fourth, they saw that the executive committee had to provide strong leadership. Their executive committee has not been afraid to acknowledge needed improvements, which has proven to be highly beneficial and has resulted in accelerated progress of the Council’s work. They embraced the idea of adapting their plans. Periodically, they found it necessary to dismantle and re-build the strategic plan is necessary. They reported that it felt like they were starting over, but that is part of the process.

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Where to Go for More Information

San Diego School-to-Career Youth Council

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