

## Program Workgroup Minutes Intro

Minutes of Program Workgroup meeting held September 12, 2017 at Board of Regents, Room 231 at 61 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT

Present: Todd Birch, Rich DuPont, Christine Mahoney

Guest Participant by Phone: Bryan Bown, Representative from the Education Division of Office Depot

The meeting convened with a review of the assignment for workgroup – Intro.

After a brief reminder of the discussion at the last meeting, Christine Mahoney reviewed the list and shared that she had categorized the list of activities to introduce Manufacturing to students, parents, community and Board of Education members according to the following criteria: Advertisements, Events, and Programs.

Bryan Bown, representative from the education Division of Office Depot joined the meeting by telephone and described their education division's effort to expand their partnerships with school districts to bring education transformation and solutions to people across the US. After brief introductions, Mr. Bown proceeded to describe his involvement in effort to introduce STEM and Manufacturing to a rural district in Roscoe, TX. The district transformed its educational approach in the district to one that ensures that each learner graduates with an Associates degree in the Manufacturing or Veterinary science area. The venture became part of Office Depots' efforts to help expand and share information about innovations in districts across the United States. Bryan Bown described how a school district in CT has developed a Maker Space curriculum that, with the help of Office Depot, has been shared with other districts at a regional conference. Mr. Bown briefly mentioned Watson Technologies that was also launched in another school district, and elaborated on the effort to encourage Dream, Design Thinking in schools beginning with the youngest learners.

After the discussion with Bryan Bown, there was a lengthy review of the document created to identify ways to Introduce Manufacturing to students, parents, community and Boards of Education. Rich DuPont and Todd Birch discussed a few more ideas which were then added to the document. Christine Mahoney mentioned a document, 'Resources to Encourage Students and Parents to Consider CTE'. Rich DuPont asked for an opportunity to share the resources of 'Doors to Explore'. After a brief exchange of ideas to expand current efforts to introduce manufacturing, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

The workgroup's compilation of ways to introduce manufacturing will be shared at the full committee meeting on September 18, 2017.