Business Advisory Meeting
Wednesday July 6, 2022

In attendance:
Kirk Gourley- Oso Grande Technologies
Kent Hodges-Encantado Technical Solutions
Stephan Rickman- City of Clovis
David Bowman-Director, REC1
Veronica Sanders-ECHS Coordinator/Program Administrator
Jaime Cherry-Business/IT coordinator
Denise Merilatt-Project Administrator

Welcome and introductions

Update on participating Early College High Schools and Partners

Arrowhead Park ECHS/Dona Ana Community College-Las Cruces

Clovis ECHS/Clovis Community college-Clovis NM

School of Dreams ECHS/CNM -Los Lunas

Peñasco ECHS/Northern NM Community College-Peñasco

Carlsbad ECHS * Tentative

Gadsden ECHS/Dona Ana Community College MOU pending

Alamogordo ECHS/NMSU Alamogordo MOU pending

Taos, Deming and Grants ECHS are still considering participation

We are still awaiting course sequences from all with the exception of Clovis. Once received, Jaime will send out to business partners so they can have reference to course content.

Discussion points

ECHS model was discussed, pertaining to the grant and the support that is built in to the model. Wrap around services, low student to instructor ratio, deeper connection to industry and career opportunity etc.

Veronica and Jaime will be attending the and have submitted a proposal for a 45 min presentation and have registered for a non-profit information table. The group was asked for feedback and ideas on the best way to message out the project goals and to engage industry attendees.

Kent H suggested capturing attention by proposing to solve a problem and appeal to how the project can address business needs by providing more local talent to hire or how students will be more prepared for these roles. Create a catchy title that will convey these ideas.

Also suggesting to include a student in the presentation to give testimony on how impactful mentorships/work-based learning were to their experience.

The information table should have something simple that includes a card with a QR code that leads to information on how to get involved.

Question: The reality that staffing qualified people is one of the main areas that is a pain point for industry. How do you see this project relieving this issue?

Stephen-Industry is suffering due to lack of qualified candidates. Has been able to bring a few exceptional students in. Best hire was a HS graduate. Anything we can do for students to get them prepared for the work force. Not necessarily a degree or certificate – tech skills are what is needed. A testimonial will help relay this.

Question: What might be some challenges for industry that enable them to support capstone project and mentorships?

Stephen -one challenge was the allotted time for students. There is a huge learning curve. It takes a while for students to grasp what the job entails. There is a need for increased time with the students.

Kent non-employees are not allowed onsite at my place of business. Any activities would need to be scheduled off site.

Question: we are hoping to bring in 30 mor more partners. Do you foresee a problem that students would be limited by or exposed to security issues? Would this limit the engagement?

Kent - don't believe so. You have to know where to go.
Stephen- Exposure to secure aspects are not necessary.

Question: Will the grant allow course work to be included as experience?

One of the main components of the grant is to provide real-world connection to careers and one the job experiences. This is where business partnerships come in. the combination of school and industry experience will help better prepare students for these jobs.

Lastly, Kirk mentioned the importance of students having some hands-on experience with networking and problem solving. It would be worth looking into some virtual networking environments that could give students this type of exposure and practice. Cyber ranges were also mentioned.