

# School-to-Career Cooperation on Common Ground

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# Current Challenge

“Business and industry **draw** employees **across** county and state **lines**. For the school to career activities to be **limited** by jurisdictional lines simply **defeats** the **purpose** of the program...”

# How Do We Address the Challenge?

Develop a **framework** to encourage **cooperation** on **common ground** between School-to-Career programs within the Metropolitan Washington Region.

# Potomac Regional Education Partnership (PREP)

- **1998** – Created by region educators.
- 2001 – COG adopted as a formal program.
- Membership – **Local jurisdictions**
- Focus
  - Facilitate **communication** between education and business.
  - Foster **collaboration** on issues of mutual concern.
  - Encourage **seamless** education **opportunities**.
  - Establish **competitive advantage** in global economy.

# What is a School-to-Career Program?

- High school and community college based activities
- Business based learning experience
- Connecting partnerships - A bridge between schools and the business community

# What is the Recommendation?

- **Encourage cooperation** between School-to-Career programs **on common ground**.
- **Identify successful practices** from which to **choose** within the existing local program models
- **COG** and **participating jurisdictions** become the regional **champions**.

# Characteristics of Current School-to-Career Programs

- **Vary** by jurisdiction
- Operate **independently**
- **Graduates** are **not equally prepared** for the workforce
- **Different business fields** (agriculture, finance, arts, technology, construction, hospitality, sales, public service, transportation, etc.)

# Template for Cooperation on Common Ground

## Sharing

- Curriculum
- Business contacts and internships
- Mentoring
- Shopping Cart of Ideas
- Common practices
- Goals for improving opportunities



# School-to-Career Benefits

- Improve student **attendance**, academic **achievement**, and **graduation** rates.
- Help young people become prepared for employment and obtain **higher quality jobs** with better wages than they might normally get.
- Businesses get **better qualified applicants**

# How Can COG Membership Help?

- COG and its participating jurisdictions champion the effort to establish a regional framework for choice.
- Use PREP as the vehicle to plan, coordinate, and implement the framework for cooperation on common ground.

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