



## Iowa Sector Connect – Information Technology Group Call Notes

Dial-In Number: 1-866-685-1580, Conference Code: 5152813866

Tuesday, October 15<sup>h</sup>

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

Purpose: Opportunity for Information Technology sector partnership teams from across the state to network and share updates about their programs, offer recommendations/best practices, and ask questions of one another so that each program continues to grow and thrive.

Attendance: Alex Goerdts (NICC), Krista Weitz (NICC), Gary Vogt (KCC), Joe Collins (IDOE)

### Team/Program Updates

Northeast – A new web app boot-camp is being developed in partnership with the University of Dubuque. Beginning in Feb 2020, classes will be offered Saturday and Wednesday evenings and will be aimed at those with little to no experience.

A [story](#) was recently posted by the Iowa Department of Education about the IT sector board efforts to connect employers and students at a local level and to assist in talent retention efforts. The group continues to hold networking events for business and student engagement efforts, with another planned for February 25, 2020.

Kirkwood – Partnering with [ICR Iowa](#) to develop a more clear vision about local careers in IT. Specific events are being planned for Computer Science Education week in December, including Hour of Code and other efforts. Have done similar events in the past, but expanding a bit this year to include all 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes in the area. To ensure employers are comfortable visiting classes and feel empowered to take part in these events, a presentation slide deck has been developed and is stored online for easy access and modification depending on audience, topic, time, etc...

A new project planned this year to better engage with 8<sup>th</sup> grade students is being called “Use Your Digital Voice”. Students are directed to use various forms of technology to tell stories. In the past, these types of events have led to the creation of artwork or other physical items that could be displayed in the community, but this year might focus on art/projects that will reside exclusively in a digital environment.

Technology Association of Iowa – [Techstream](#) is a new digital space designed to connect students, parents, and teachers with exciting tech-focused opportunities and news from across Iowa. Similar to Elevatelowa’s goal of centralizing events, news, and other resources for Advanced Manufacturing, this new site will be that resource for IT and related fields. Participation will be critical in building the database and providing better access to these opportunities. Get involved and share your program, event or news post at [techstreamiowa.org/submit](http://techstreamiowa.org/submit). Questions about the initiative or submission process can also be directed to Mollie Ross at [mollie@technologyiowa.org](mailto:mollie@technologyiowa.org)

## General/State/Misc Updates

2019/2020 Career Pathways Projects: The two industries chosen for career pathway development in 2019 were the [Building Trades](#) and Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics (TDL). A final Building Trades product released in August and TDL is planned to release in December. Target industries for 2020 are **Business & Financial Services** and a refresh/reboot for Information Technology.

Sector Partnership Webinar Training Series (July-August 2019): The IDOE partnered with the [Next Generation Sector Partnership](#) team to offer a series of Iowa-exclusive sector partnership webinars for anyone interested in or currently active with sector strategies. Recordings of the 5-part series can be viewed on the main sector partnership [site](#) or on the [Iowa Sector Connect](#) YouTube channel. Each session is 90 minutes, consisting of a 60-minute review of topics by Next Gen national consultants and 30-minute Q&A from the audience.

Industry-Specific Work-Based Learning Toolkits: The IDOE is working on a series of industry-themed work-based learning toolkits aimed at helping to build out more work-based learning opportunities across the state for employers. This is often the next step for students interested in a field, such as classroom speakers, job shadows, or internships, but employers and educators often struggle with connecting the dots to put something in place. Toolkits were released in August for [Health Science](#) and October for [Advanced Manufacturing](#). Similar guides will be produced going forward in the building trades, TDL, and other industries.

Clearinghouse for Work-Based Learning: One aspect of Future Ready Iowa initiative that relates closely with many of the goals of sector partnership teams is a new web site that will act as a clearinghouse for work-based learning opportunities across the state. Employers will be able to post projects online for students from across the state to apply for and begin working on to earn valuable work-skills and experience. The full site and project board are now live at [Clearinghouse.FutureReadyIowa.gov](#). Contact Joe to learn more and to brainstorm idea of how to get local employers more involved.

AmeriCorps Sector Partnership Support: Funding has been secured to assist sector partnership teams with support for their local initiatives surrounding employer engagement, marketing/outreach, and career pathway development. An informative webinar was held in October and can be viewed <https://youtu.be/o7CAOChM9do> online and groups are asked to have [applications](#) completed and submitted by the end of November.

## 2019/2020 Call Schedule

\*All calls are scheduled for 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM, unless otherwise noted

2019 – 02/12, 04/09, 06/11, 08/13, 10/08, 12/10

2020 – 02/11, 04/14, 06/09, 08/11, 10/13, 12/08