



Thank you for attending the WVCC Lewis County Networking Event. We truly appreciate your time, engagement, and willingness to share your insights.

The conversations were thoughtful and productive, and the feedback we received was extremely valuable. We encourage you to look them over and share any additional thoughts or items we may have missed.

## **Common Themes**

- ✓ **Stronger Connections Needed**

There are gaps in communication between education, industry, and community and there needs to be more awareness of opportunities among students and educators.

- ✓ **Early Exposure & Access**

Career exposure starts too late. Work-based learning exists but isn't easily accessible.

- ✓ **Barriers to Participation**

Transportation, pay, and logistics limit student involvement opportunities.

- ✓ **Soft Skills Gap**

Technology and limited interaction contribute to the lack of communication, professionalism, and motivation among students and employees.

- ✓ **Community & Opportunity Awareness**

There is a lack of connection between local careers and community as WV opportunities and quality of life are under-promoted.

## What We Learned

- ✓ Advisory boards and collaboration work best with strong, relevant representation
- ✓ Students need career awareness before high school
- ✓ Paid, local, and well-communicated opportunities increase participation
- ✓ Soft skills are critical
- ✓ Silos between education, workforce, and community limit progress
- ✓ Many students leave due to lack of awareness, not lack of opportunity
- ✓ Familiarity and local engagement increase likelihood of staying in WV
- ✓ Opportunities and success stories are not visible enough

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