



Thank you for attending the WVCC Marion 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 over the notes and share any additional thoughts or items we may have missed.

What's Working?

- ✓ Faculty involvement in career preparation is a strength. Faculty are helping students with career coaching, resumes, interviewing, and connecting classroom experiences to employment.
- ✓ Career fairs and employer visibility are producing results. Students have secured internships through career fair connections, and employers have seen increased interest when they consistently participate in career fairs and build name recognition.
- ✓ Learn and Earn provides a strong model for connecting education, employment, and upskilling. The wage reimbursement can support both students and current employees seeking additional credentials.
- ✓ Employers can attract talent when they have good opportunities and clearly communicate what those opportunities are.

What Are We Seeing?

- ✓ Students and jobseekers may have a limited view of the types of careers available within an industry. For example, employers may be perceived as offering only traditional roles when they also have opportunities in IT, safety, engineering, and other areas.
- ✓ Early exposure can influence career interests. Experiences such as Take Your Kid to Work Day, Junior Nursing Day, and site visits can help students see themselves in careers they may not otherwise consider.
- ✓ Some jobseekers may need more than information about available jobs or training. Confidence, circumstances surrounding job loss, and other barriers can affect whether someone is willing to pursue a new career path.
- ✓ Microcredentials and stackable credentials may provide a more accessible pathway for nontraditional students, working adults, and people with families who cannot pursue a degree all at once.

How Can WVCC Help?

- ✓ Help connect education and industry by identifying opportunities for site visits, career exploration, job shadows, and other hands-on experiences.
- ✓ Help employers better communicate the scope of their career opportunities, particularly when an industry is commonly associated with only a narrow set of occupations.
- ✓ Create greater awareness of career pathways, including opportunities that may not be available immediately but could be future employment options.
- ✓ Connect employers, education, and the workforce system so that individuals have a clearer path from career exploration - training/credentials - employment.

What Could We Do Together?

- ✓ Develop more employer site visits and career exploration experiences for both K–12 and postsecondary students.
- ✓ Explore campus-based employer experiences, such as businesses operating on campus or student-run businesses, that provide students with real-world experience and academic credit.
- ✓ Work together to better communicate the full range of careers within local industries, including less-visible STEM and support occupations.
- ✓ Connect employers and education partners around microcredentials and stackable credential pathways that allow working adults to upskill incrementally.

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