

## **Workforce and Education group Minutes January 8, 2024**

Present:

Amanda Richardson, Chris Callahan, Dara Zink, Hannah Green, Laura Boudreau, Lisa Harrington, Melissa Senecal, Wendy Morse, Rob Bahny, Sean-Marie Oller, Bill Colvin, Kristen Kimball, Wendy Callaert, Jeannie Jenkins

### **Financial Reality Fair - Wednesday, January 17**

Planning team is in good shape

- Expecting approximately 160 students from MAU, BBA and Arlington
- 40 adult volunteers from local banks, civic groups, and WFE
- Two sessions, one at 8:15 and a second at 9:15 am.

The Fair is designed to give students a realistic view of what it will be like to have to live on their own with a paycheck. They choose a profession ahead of time and then come to the Wednesday event where they are given a budget sheet to manage their finances for a month.

Students are encouraged to talk with HS and college counselors and VDOL staff about upgrading their skills or getting a part time job. This helps kids think about pathways in their chosen profession - generally requiring more education or training and hopefully, an increase in pay.

### **Sophomore Summit - Wednesday, January 31**

Lisa Harrington feels this is in good shape

- Expecting 250 10<sup>th</sup> graders from MAU, BBA, and Arlington
- Each student chooses two of fourteen pathways to explore in 50-minute workshops
- Each student participates in a third Career Panel run by VT Dept of Labor
- Over 50 presenters

Sophomore Summit is an opportunity to broadly explore career pathways and also connect with VDOL and Tech Center faculty as ways to further their interests.

### **Update on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant application**

Laura has been working with a number of collaborating organizations to put together a supervisory union wide application for 21<sup>st</sup> century funding. This will continue and build upon the ESSR funds available to the SVSU through summer 2024. The grant is due the beginning of February.

Collaborating organizations include The Tutorial Center, Alliance for Community Transformation, UVM-Extension, Workforce and Educ group, Town of Bennington, Berkshire Family YMCA, Southern VT Area Health Education Center, SW Tech, the Abbey Group, and Dufours Busing