

Rockford Area Economic Development Council

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

2011 / 2012 WORK PLAN

The Rockford Area Economic Development Council (RAEDC) Board of Directors created solutions teams/committees to help achieve the organization's mission and goals. Committee contributions are extremely helpful, as members advise from their unique perspectives, broaden considerations, and lead implementation of *Rockforward!* strategies and tactics.

Meetings of the Education Committee are held on the second Tuesday of each month (*except July and December*) at 7:30 AM at the Rockford Public Schools Administration Building (501 7th Street, 4th Floor, Rockford, IL). The chairman is Brad Long, President, Northwestern Illinois Building & Construction Trades Council / Project First Rate. The staff liaison is Janyce Fadden, RAEDC President.

In 2011 and 2012, the Education Committee will collaborate with RAEDC staff, investors, and allies to accomplish the following action:

ENGAGE ROCKFORD AREA BUSINESSES IN IMPROVING AND SUPPORTING EDUCATION SYSTEM

Tactics: Education Committee will work with higher education regional institutions and the public school district to support programs that build the future workforce by engaging students in industry and educational opportunities. Initial tactics include working with Alignment Rockford's Career Pathways Committee to support a feasibility study for and implementation of Ford PAS: Next Generation Learning Career Academies/high school redesign. As business community liaison to the Rockford Public Schools/Rockford Board of Education, the committee will continuously monitor the Ford PAS grant funding and ensure academy advisory boards are established and assisting academies with curricula that meets industry standards and providing work-based learning opportunities for faculty and students. The committee will continuously promote the program to leaders of key, private industry sector companies, solicit their commitment to participate and coordinate their ongoing involvement, as well as assess the program's effectiveness. The committee will also continue working with Kishwaukee Intermediate Delivery System (KIDS) to facilitate ongoing company tours with educators.

Projected Outcomes: Businesses will have access to a new worker pipeline, high schools will offer marketable, career specific skills and bolster our regions workforce development system, educators will have access to companies that will offer internships, and students will be employment ready and have access to local job opportunities.