

Interview with Doris McAllister Workforce Training & Education cluster co-chair

Q. Why/how do you think working on the Workforce Cluster will make a difference in 'education,' the 'economy,' and in our 'community'?

A. One of the primary objectives of the Workforce Training and Education Cluster is to help employers and incumbent workers sift and sort through all the training and educational offerings that are available in our community and beyond. For example, if an employer is looking for customer service skills or PLC training, where can the employer turn to meet that need? The community portal web-site created will help direct the employer to find the training locally. This means extra resources are not spent on overnight stays at other cities and money spent on meals, mileage and time away that could be spent locally. We want to 'get the word out' about local training and educational opportunities. If a training topic is needed, the web-site will also act as a way to inform the training and educational providers of that specific need. Our goal is to keep dollars local. Think global but act local.

Q. In what ways do the members 'come together' to create the objectives?

A. The team members of the cluster come together from a variety of industries, such as education, governmental services, health care, manufacturing and students. Most of all, we all live in this great community with broad representation to create new possibilities which in turn translate to objectives that are designed to meet the needs of this community.

Q. How will they get implemented?

A. Team members are greatly committed to the success of the Workforce Training and Education Cluster, and to the Community Progress Initiative. Our continued involvement, and with new members adding to the mix, it will ensure that our goals and objectives are met in a timely manner.

Q. What have you learned from the process so far?

A. Perhaps the greatest thing is that the success of our community depends on involvement from all of us. And, we can do it. We believe in it.

Q. What would others gain from 'joining' in with your cluster?

A. Meet great people from our community, and since we all have a stake in this community, direct the future and feel the sense of accomplishment that comes with being able to take pride and ownership in the work that we have done so far and what is yet to be done.

Q. What kind of skills/help do you still require to make your objectives as a cluster succeed?

A. Continued passion in the field of educating and training our current and future workforce. We continue to tap the talents of those who are 'forward' thinkers. We welcome new ideas and support from others.