

2018 Pioneer Valley Healthcare Career Pathways Forum

Summary of Comments and Recommendations



Program Description

This report captures the key discussion points and recommendations at the Pioneer Valley Healthcare Career Pathways Forum on Tuesday, October 23, 2018. Eighty-seven (87) individuals representing secondary schools, higher education, community-based organizations, healthcare service agencies, and workforce boards participated in the region-wide discussion focused on preparing high school students to enroll into and successfully complete a credential, certificate or degree in the healthcare field.

Program Overview

The program consisted of presentations, round table discussions, and allotted time for networking. The deans of the schools of health sciences at the local colleges presented information to the group on topics such as: an overview of the inventory of certificate and degree programs, academic competencies for healthcare programs, and universal enrollment and financial aid processes for new students. Our community partners presented examples of their current and past careers awareness activities and programs for in school and out-of-school youths. Panel table discussions addressed the issues of healthcare programs awareness, academic and career pathway development and collaboration. The partnering six colleges were available at provide additional program information and answer questions.

2018 Pioneer Valley Healthcare Career Pathways Forum

Summary of Comments and Recommendations

Key Recommendations for Continuous Program Development

Networking, Information and Resource Sharing:

Create a platform for all organizations to keep in touch with updated information, resources, and events.

- Give vocational programs access to resources
- Share college programs, resources, and information that can assist high school students with their career development
- Distribute resources to guidance counselors and students
- Continue the conversation and provide updates through blogs, newsletters, etc.
- Give specific information on college program and admission requirements

Develop regional workgroups consisting of secondary schools, community based organizations, employers, higher education, and workforce development

- Create educational pathways for students who have completed healthcare programs at vocational technical high schools
- Clarify career pathways for guidance counselors and high school students
- Continue to host regional programs, and host these programs in other regions
- Replicate these programs at the high schools
- Network with and provide contact information for organizations and individuals who are willing to host students for job shadows and internships

Education Institutions and Community Organizations Partnership Development

Develop and implement activities between secondary and post-secondary institutions that provide career exposure and exploration experiences for freshman to senior level high school students

- Immerse students in hands-on learning activities with healthcare professionals at all levels
- Integrate experiential learning activities into the health curriculum
- Provide early exposure to clinical and non-clinical roles
- Invite students and out-of-school youth to visit the simulation labs
- Utilize job shadow opportunities at employer organizations

Prepare students for the academic rigor of a healthcare certificate or degree programs in the high school setting

- Learn from Intro to Health Careers programs at Holyoke and Springfield Technical Community Colleges
- Model campus life for students on the college campuses
- Allows high school students to hear from college graduates
- Give high school students opportunities to sit/shadow in college lecture sessions
- Develop internships and work-based learning for college credit

2018 Pioneer Valley Healthcare Career Pathways Forum

Summary of Comments and Recommendations

Align standardized tests with college preparatory and career exploration programs

- Create a community dialogue around supporting students, math, college prep, career exploration
- Inventory, i.e., ONET, Career Cruising

Employer Engagement

Include employers in programs and activities

- Field trips to employer sites
- Employer engagement in the high school setting
- Shadow opportunities at employer organizations
- Include leaders from various organizations

Let's Get Started!

Check out <http://westernmasshealthcareers.org/> it provides of healthcare careers and education programs in western Massachusetts. Take a look at our [Calendar](#).

- ❑ [Interactive Careers Map](#)
- ❑ [Academic Preparation](#)
- ❑ [Education and Training Program \(Certificate, Associates, Bachelors, Masters +\)](#)
- ❑ [Career Exploration and Exposure Programs](#)

If you are interested in further discussion, planning or information on any of the themes or actions listed in this report, [please let us know](#).

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Peta-Gaye Porter

Manager of Healthcare Workforce Initiatives @ pporter@masshirecwb.com

THANK YOU!

American International College
Bay Path University
Baystate Academy Charter Public School
Baystate Medical Center
Behavioral Health Network
Central MA Workforce Investment Board
Chicopee Comprehensive High School
Chicopee Public Schools
Connecting Activities - River West Schools
Conservatory of Arts
Dudley Charlton Regional School District
Elms College
Gateway to College at Holyoke Community College
Gateway to College at Springfield Technical Community College
Grafton High School
Granby Jr. Sr. High School
Greenfield Community College
High School of Commerce
High School of Science & Technology
Holyoke Community College
Holyoke High School- North Campus
John J. Duggan Academy
MassHire Hampden County Workforce Board
MassHire Holyoke Career Center
MassHire Springfield Career Center

MassHire Central Region Workforce Board
Monson High School
New England Farm Workers Council
Palmer High School
Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School
Pittsfield High School
Pope Francis Prep School
River East School-to-Career
Roger L. Putnam Vocational Technical Academy
Shepherd Hill Regional High School
South Hadley High School
Southwick Regional School
Springfield Central High School
Springfield College
Springfield Public Schools
Springfield Technical Community College
Square One
UMass Amherst
West Springfield High School
Western New England College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Westfield High School
Westover Job Corps Center



**HAMPDEN COUNTY
WORKFORCE BOARD**

