

**Des Plaines Valley Region  
Business Committee  
Mid-Year Report**

**Summer Programs**

We are still distraught that our Teacher Work Experience program and the Summer Camps were cancelled. We discussed the benefits of TWE and the Health Careers Camp (which had full enrollment.) It is unanimously felt that TWE was our single best professional development each year. We learned about the businesses through observation and discussion. This also ties into our business advisory requirement.

**Business Advisory Groups**

Discussion was held about the advantages of having a Business Advisory Group for each school. We reviewed the book Anne shared and talked about ways to use technology to encourage more involvement as time constraints are an issue with prospective members. Leyden and Elmwood Park have groups that meet. OPRF, RB and Proviso attendees stated that to their knowledge they do not have groups that meet. Triton has a group that meets twice a year.

**Update of Dual Credit progress and Triton Updates**

The new contact and school contacts were reviewed. Dr. Anderson suggested that there is a fit in Dual Credit for work programs.

Triton College of Business will be submitting their first draft report to the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs to become a nationally recognized accredited program for the Accounting and Business Department. A new Bookkeeping Certificate Program will be available in Fall 2016. ACC 101 Financial Accounting will move from a 3 credit hour class to 4 credit hour class Fall 2016A new Accounting Assistant Program is in the works along with a CPA Pathway Program.

**Career Spotlights**

We reviewed the available career spotlights. Members were disappointed that schools were restricted to certain visits. For example, only a few schools had the opportunity to attend the Price Waterhouse trip. In addition, those who attended the presentations still felt that the presentations were not very structured and generally were not as useful as the visits. They feel that the money could be better spent in other areas.

**Tech Share Workshop**

In response to the business teachers of the area requests we decided to hold another Tech Share workshop this year. The event will be held at East Leyden High School on March 3rd. Further information will be forthcoming. The invitation is open to CTE teachers from the region. Twenty-one participants are already scheduled. Committee members were asked to confirm additional attendees by next meeting. Topics include sharing ideas, Gamification and using social media and promotion using Snapchat.

**Workshops**

Members of the committee are planning to attend several professional conferences this year. Patty Sarcady is going to the Careers Pathways Conference as well Gamification to Strengthen Student Engagement and Learning Conference. Barb Burchill will be attending the IBEA Conference in Springfield. Nancy Bardo will be attending CABEA. Many members will be attending the Connections Conference in March.

**New Courses**

OPRF is working on the Incubator Project and a student tech work program. Elmwood Park is working on adding AP Computer Principles and hopefully, Mobile Maker, the following year. Leyden is adding AP Computer Principles and Web Design is changing to Mobile Maker.

**Curriculum Sharing**

Karen shared economic sites and materials about Marketing Psychology and the Science Behind Design Principles. We spent time sharing ideas about incorporating Excel and tying current events to courses.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Bear  
Business Committee Chairperson