



DVR Business Committee FY18 Final Report

On September 26, 2017 IT faculty across our districts met with business advisors and discussed changes in the IT industry and the importance of constantly keeping up with new skills. At that time Dr. Anderson from Triton included an industry trend overview on the labor market. Brian Matzelle from CompTIA discussed certifications being used as hiring criteria across many IT jobs. Paul Baker from Webitect discussed the higher echelon of Programming, developer positions, which do not look at mainstream certifications, but instead look at collaborative code sharing sites to see what people are contributing to new code.

On October 19, 2017 teachers participated in a full day workshop by Certiport regarding industry credentialing in IT. This hands on experience was hosted in a computer lab at Oak Park & River Forest High School. Teachers were excited about the opportunity to improve their skills through this workshop experience.

On November 16, 2017 the Management and Entrepreneurship Business Advisory took place at Triton College. Business members included Cristina Martinez from Turano Baking Company. Discussion about business needs and course offerings were included. Attending: Lauren Martire, Leyden, Jim Melich, Elmwood Park, Patty Sarkady, Riverside-Brookfield, Sharue Winfield and Dan Renaud, Proviso, Beth Metzler, Illinois Finance Learning Exchange/Econ Illinois, Christina Martinez, Turano Bakery, Cynthia Saucedo, Jr. Achievement, Roberto Curci and Gerardo Belcaful, Dominican University, Anne Cothran, DVR. Discussion covered how to define what is the best job?, Asking students what problems they want to solve, not what they want to do, and how to move students in to a process of how to analyze, do active learning, and love new ideas. They will need creativity in how they approach problems.

Mid-year plans originally included having one more meeting for IT and one more for Business Management in January and February, 2018. These will focus on committee planning for FY19 in terms of budget options and course planning. Teachers requested adding a half day workshop for the special Econ Illinois Teacher Resource training, date tbd.

Due to schedule constraints, in the second semester the two separate committee meetings were replaced by one joint meeting on February 1st. The first half of the meeting included discussion on Business Department programs and grant allowable budget requests for FY19, and program improvement. Handouts included course descriptions for Business sequences, an article on Using Data to Drive Programs of Study, ACTE sector sheets on Information Technology and Financial Services, additional handouts on integration of math in Information Technology from Project Achieve, and National Research Center for CTE material on college and Career-ready Math by Dr. Stone.

The second half of the meeting was a training workshop presented by Beth Metzler from ECON Illinois. This special program was a hands-on training for using virtual economics version 4.5 in business classes. Each participant received lesson resources on a usb drive. Teachers were very excited about the level of organization and depth included in the resource including lessons by grade level, access by topic, and links to related resources. A grant through ECON Illinois paid for the usb resource program. If others want the usb resource, it would be \$45. while supplies last, but they would not get the detailed training participants received in this meeting. Faculty rated the training very highly.