

**Des Plaines Valley Region
Business Committee
Mid-Year Report - 2019-2020**

Conference Discussions and Outcomes

Committee members attended the School College Alliance Workshop and IBEA during the first half of the year. Main themes taken away and discussed were Cybersecurity/Data Protection, College/Career Pathway Advancements and Essential Skills. Members stressed the need at all schools to pursue essential skill training and Cybersecurity. Leyden and Ridgewood are moving forward with Cybersecurity offerings while others are continuing to investigate the option at their schools. Member schools will attend other conferences during the second half of the year.

Dual Credit and Triton Updates

Gretchen Reyes went through an update of all the current dual credit opportunities at Triton through the lens of DVR. While most members knew their current offerings, there were several areas to investigate moving forward. In the second half of the year, member schools will be looking at:

- MobileMakers opportunity for dual credit
- IncubatorEDU opportunity for dual credit
- Industry certifications that may qualify for dual credit at Triton

In addition, many questions were asked about teacher qualifications. While many schools want to pursue dual credit opportunities, teacher qualifications continue to be an obstacle for many. All members will continue to look to excel in this area where appropriate.

Industry Certifications in Business

The committee members discussed if there are missing opportunities for business industry certifications. While many understand the value of tech certifications, business certifications are a question mark in terms of their value to a student. Member schools offer certifications in QuickBooks and Entrepreneurship; but other possible areas have been ignored. A main discussion to continue is the value of business certifications to potential employers and college admissions counselors.

Employability Skills

Member schools have been toying with various options to enhance employability skills. The outside marketplace tells schools that this is one of the biggest factors in hiring (not content knowledge), yet there is not a priority on providing these skills. Members discussed implementing ideas such as professional dress day, Ask the Expert Day and others that will expose students to skills that will be needed.

FBLA and DECA Student Organizations

Member schools all have one of these organizations in their department. However, discussion is being held on what is best for students both now and in the future. One member school discussed that each organization attracts a different type of student, so all can be successful. Member schools will reevaluate their organizations and more discussions will be held to ensure the students have beneficial experiences.

Independent Study Options

Member schools feel there are many students who want to go further in business areas where there are no class offerings. Some are using independent study as an option to provide those opportunities to students. This “next level” option would likely be seen through a MOOC or other online avenue where students could enhance their skills further. Member schools will continue to discuss these options.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tony Pecucci
Business Committee Chairperson