

Exemplary Programs Series

Cross-Sector Collaboration: BillingsWorks Workforce Council

OVERVIEW

BillingsWorks is a collaboration of Billings businesses and organizations powered by Big Sky Economic Development that brings together partners and resources to anticipate and respond to community workforce needs. The BillingsWorks council, run by a Steering Committee of public and private organizations, has four goals to "build a better workforce" in the Billings area: (1) collaboration, (2) development of an Employer Toolkit to meet immediate workforce needs, (3) alignment with education, and (4) talent attraction and retention.

Collaborating to Build a Better Workforce

ELEMENTS

- Steering Committee members fund a permanent, fulltime position to coordinate efforts of the council
- Places a high emphasis on collaboration across sectors (public, for-profit, non-profit)
- Uses data to drive decisions; results are shared with the public through State of the Workforce publications
- Focus given to current and near future workforce needs of industry partners; education and other partners come to the table to help meet mutual goals

HIGHLIGHTS

- Career and Technical Education Board and CTE Business Liaison Director Position
- CNA and Simulated OR program at the Career Center through partnership with Advanced Health Care Montana, St. John's United and Legacy Healthcare
- "Let's Get to Work!" Job Fair, connecting 800 high school seniors with about 90 employers
- Next Generation Sector Partnership in technology called the Yellowstone Tech Alliance, a group of technology businesses that gather to collaborate on noncompetitive solutions for the industry at large

For more information, please contact:

Karen Baumgart
Director, BillingsWorks
karen@bigskyeda.org



"This Simulated OR space at the Career Center is a true example of public schools, colleges, Industry, and economic agencies coming together to provide our High School students with the best and most relevant educational experience possible."

--- Scott Anderson, Principal Billings Career Center