Bluff Country Collaborative:
A Multi-Stakeholder Initiative in Southeast Minnesota

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Introductions: Presenters/Around the Room

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Agenda

1. Introductions
2. What is the Bluff Country Collaborative?
3. Strategies
4. Metrics
5. Challenges
6. Next Steps
7. Q & A
Bluff Country Collaborative (BCC)

The BCC is a collaborative effort focused on connecting business, education, local government, and organizations who are committed to the economic sustainability of the region.

The vision of the Bluff Country Collaborative is to ensure the economic vitality of rural communities in Houston and Fillmore counties by integrating schools, employers, local government, and community resources in an effort to provide meaningful, hands-on experience to the next generation of workers.
Bluff Country Collaborative

Business and Industry
Caledonia Haulers
Kwik Trip
Fastenal
Flex Craft
Gundersen Health
Harmony Enterprises
Local #6
Mathy Construction
Mayo Clinic
McDonald’s
Midwest Machinery
MiEnergy
Miners Underground
Wieser Bros. Construction
etc.

K-12
Caledonia
Houston
La Crescent-Hokah
Lewiston-Altura
Mabel-Canton
Rushford-Peterson
Spring Grove

Post-Secondary
MN State College Southeast

Service Cooperative
Southeast Service Cooperative
(Rochester, MN)

Workforce Development
Fillmore County EDA
Houston County ED
Workforce Development, Inc.
(Rochester, MN)
Turn and Talk #1

With a partner or small group, review what CTE looks like in your context. What is already in place? Where could you grow? What are some success? Some challenges?
BCC Strategies

Senior Day

CTE Career Exploration Day
Industry Tours
Union Reps Panel
Dream Job Event
Grade 8 Career Exploration Day
Career Day
Guest speakers
Mock Interviews
Job Shadows
Career Fair
Youth Skills Training Program/CAN
1:1 Student Support
CTE Instructor Support
BCC Structure

**Leadership Team**
- School Principals + Workforce Development + SSC + Perkins
- Strategies, Continuous Improvement
- Every other month 2.5 hour meeting plus Navigator contact

**Partnership Team**
- Workforce Development + SSC + Perkins
- Business/Industry Engagement
- Monthly 1 hour meeting and as needed

**Fiscal Team**
- Workforce Development + SSC + Perkins + (Admin. Reps?)
- Funding for Youth Workforce Navigator position
- Monthly 1 hour meeting and as needed
BCC Metrics

Student Feedback

School Feedback

Business/Industry Feedback
BCC Challenges

- Turn-over/On-Boarding
- Identifying Lanes
- Trust
- Funding
- Meetings
- Capacity
- Expansion
Turn and Talk #2

What are some strengths and challenges with your existing partnerships and collaborative efforts?
BCC Next Steps

1. Develop Fiscal Team.
2. Secure sustainable and consistent funding.
   - Southeast Service Cooperative Grants
   - Regional/Local Grants
   - Perkins
   - Youth Skills Training Grant
   - Regional/Local Business Donations
   [Career Z Challenge Grant]
3. Identify lanes.
4. Consider expansion efforts.
http://bluffcountrycollaborative.com

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