

WARNER, CAROLYN

Page: Basic Information

Nominator Information

Please provide your information as the nominator of this partnership.

Your Name

WARNER, CAROLYN

Email Address

cwarner@carolynwarner.com

Title

CHAIRMAN

Employer

CORPORATE EDUCATION CONSULTING INC

Phone Number

6029577552

Your Relationship to the Partnership?

CO-CHAIR

The Partners: Business & Industry

Please provide basic information on the business and industry organizations involved in the partnership.

Business/Industry Partner 1

Business/Organization Name

Please see comment in the box following this part - There are numerous partners!

Address

2150 E Highland Ave
Suite 108
Phoenix Arizona 85016 US

Website

corporateeducationconsulting.com

Main Career Clusters within Industry

Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources, Architecture & Construction, Arts, A/V Technology & Communications, Business Management & Administration, Education & Training, Finance, Government & Public Administration, Health Science, Hospitality & Tourism, Information Technology, Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security, Manufacturing, Marketing, Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics, Transportation, Distribution & Logistics, Other

Point of Contact

Carolyn Warner

Title

Chairman

Email

cwarner@carolynwarner.com

Business/Industry Partner 2 (if applicable)**Business/Organization Name****Address**

US

Website**Main Career Clusters within Industry****Point of Contact**

Title

Email

Business/Industry Partner 3 (if applicable)

Business/Organization Name

Address

Website

Main Career Clusters within Industry

Point of Contact

Title

Email

Provide information on any other additional business & industry partners not listed above. Also, please use this opportunity to briefly explain the unique roles of these businesses in the partnership (if there are more than one involved.)

The Arizona Career and Technical Education Quality Commission (AQSC) is comprised of 65 business/corporate, educational, union, and community/philanthropic leaders who represent all the major employment clusters identified by the Arizona Commerce Department's office of Economic Opportunity.

The members of AQSC are charged with validating the assessments -- mandated by the Arizona Legislature -- that are administered to Career and Technical Education (CTE) program completers from comprehensive high schools and Joint Technical Education Districts. There are 70 CTE program areas which are approved by the Arizona State Board of Career and Technical Education. This Commission meets five times per year, with numerous interim task force subgroup meetings. Supporting the work of the Commission is the Career-Ready Stakeholders Committee, with a rotating membership comprised of local school district CTE directors and other "in-the-field" practitioners.

The Partners: Educational Institutions & Programs

Please provide basic information on the educational institutions and/or programs involved in the partnership.

Education Partner 1

Educational Institution/Program Name

AZ DEPT OF EDUCATION - CTE

Address

3300 N CENTRAL
16th Fl
PHOENIX Arizona 85012 US

Website

<http://www.azed.gov/cte/programs/>

What type of institution is it? (If a program, where is it offered?)

Other

Point of Contact

CATHIE RAYMOND

Title

Deputy Associate Superintendent/State Director

Email

CATHIE.RAYMOND@AZED.GOV

Education Partner 2 (if applicable)

Educational Institution/Program Name

Address

Website

What type of institution is it? (If a program, where is it offered?)

Point of Contact

Title

Email

Education Partner 3 (if applicable)

Educational Institution/Program Name

Address

Website

What type of institution is it? (If a program, where is it offered?)

Point of Contact

Title

Email

Provide information on any other education partners not listed above. Also, please use this opportunity to briefly explain the unique roles of these educational institutions/programs in the partnership (if there are more than one involved.)

The CTE Division of the Arizona Department of Education provides the focus and the technical support for the AQSC. The Division is responsible for administering the end-of-program assessments to CTE program completers from comprehensive high schools and Joint Technical Education Districts statewide. The Division works in close coordination and cooperation with the Commission and the Career-Ready Stakeholders Committee to ensure that the goals and purposes of the statutes and State Board rules and regulations regarding end-of-program assessments are carried out.

Page: Support Information

1. What problem was this partnership developed to solve?

In 2007, the Arizona Legislature enacted a statute (essentially paralleling Perkins Act legislation at the Federal level) requiring that students completing state-approved CTE programs pass an industry-validated assessment of the Technical Skills that are taught in those programs. Rather than comply with the mandate with an “off-the-shelf” test, a partnership of the Arizona Department of Education/Career and Technical Education, the Arizona State University, and Corporate//Education Consulting, Inc., was formed to build the Arizona Skill Standards System “from the ground up.” The product complied with both state and federal requirements, and placed Arizona as one of, if not the, first states to develop and implement this type of Career and Technical Education program assessment.

2. What steps were taken to get the partnership started?

The organizers of the initiative (see Response to Question #1, above), formed a statewide coalition of chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, relevant state agencies, and community college and university representatives to develop a matrix of potential members of the Quality Skills Commission. Representatives of these organizations, and the members they identified, convened in an initial meeting, agreed on the principles of a representative membership and a plan of work. It is important to note that representatives of state, county, and local governments, chambers of commerce (state and local), foundations and community organizations, all were supportive of and participated in the formation of the Skills Commission from its inception.

3. Describe how the partnership was designed to support high-quality CTE.

In response to the state and federal mandates noted above, broad-based teams of employers, CTE educators, and economic development professionals were formed statewide to review the technical skills being taught in the CTE programs approved by the State Board of CTE. Volunteer teams of educators and industry experts reviewed and approved the relevance of these industry-specific skill clusters in a series of 11 statewide forums involving over 350 participants. Drawing upon the industry-validated identification of the relevant skills, teams of psychometricians developed the banks of specific items to be used for the assessments. The involvement of employers (ranging from industries such as Boeing, defense contractors, major utilities, and banks to small business owners) – all of whom recognized the need for a workforce with the appropriate technical and “employability” skills – provided the hands-on involvement to support high-quality Career and Technical Education programs that would enable CTE students to pass the assessments and become successful employees.

4. What were the results of the partnership? What was innovative about the partnership or its output? How did it benefit students and the community?

The AQSC and its broad-based, statewide membership enable students who complete a State Board approved CTE program to demonstrate through passing an industry-validated assessment that they have learned the basic knowledge and acquired the basic technical skills to enter the work force. Because Arizona employers have been involved from the very beginning in identifying the skills required of entry-level employees, there is a great level of knowledge of, and engagement with, CTE Programs in secondary schools, large and small, in every part of Arizona. Participation in these programs provide students with the skills to access a wide range of work/career opportunities required for success in an increasingly technological economy. Since CTE Programs can be tailored to meet the needs of employers, many program completers may, if they so desire, become employed in their local communities.

Since inception of AQSC, CTE has had an average of 23,000 final test-takers per semester who have successfully passed the industry-validated assessments in approximately 55 - 60 approved program areas, with an average pass rate 80%. Students who successfully complete their Technical Skills assessment receive a certificate and a transcript indicating the skill areas of strength and needed growth, providing employers with at-a-glance of the student's job readiness.

5. What were the lessons learned during the process of building the partnership? What would you have done differently?

In the less resource-rich, more rural parts of the state, there was initial concern by educators that a statewide assessment of the nature of the Technical Skills assessment might possibly penalize students. However, because identification of the skills to be assessed and development of the item banks to assess these skills involved employers and educators from all parts of the state, and all students may take a practice test prior to the program-completion assessment, it is generally understood and accepted that all program completers taking the assessments are on essentially equal footing.

While no assessment system is perfect, the Arizona Skills Standards Assessment System has been administered to students over the past 11 years with essentially no operational or mechanical problems, and with results that are understood and accepted by employers, educators, parents and students.

6. Is this partnership sustainable? How do you anticipate it will change in the coming year(s)?

Yes! As long as employers seek proof that a prospective employee has the technical/job skills required there will be a demonstrated need and a legislative requirement for the assessments that make up the Arizona Skill Standards Assessment System. The skills measured by CTE program completers are "industry-driven" and industry/employer validated -- entry-level employees can demonstrate the skills they need to get and keep a good job from these CTE Programs.

As the Department of Commerce and other agencies identify needs/trends in our economic future, the employer-educator partnership that drives the Arizona Skill Standards Assessment System will evolve, as will the skills to be measured. It is in the best economic and social interests of all that there is an assessment system in place that measures and encourages skill attainment and keeps pace with the evolution of the economy and the skills necessary to survive and thrive in this economy.

7. How long did it take to create this partnership?

Less than 6 months

8. How large of an investment did the businesses and other partner(s) involved make in this partnership (time and money)?

The AQSC meets 4 times a year, averaging about 3 hours per meeting, at various locations throughout the state. The business partners' financial investments are minimal, with donations of food, beverage, and meeting space.

During the planning time of six months, the CTE Division and Corporate//Education Consulting, Inc. researched other state efforts to develop and implement a skills assessment system (and learned that there was no comparable, adaptable model), and consulted with employers, governmental entities, CTE professionals, and university faculty to construct an organizational and operational model which has worked well over the past 11 years.

The creation of the system was considerably enabled by the awareness of all involved stakeholders that, notwithstanding legislative and Congressional mandates for CTE skills assessment, the ultimate beneficiaries would be society as a whole: employers, students, parents, and all who are in any way a part of the economic structure of the state.

9. Would you or an associate be willing to present a session at an ACTE event about this partnership?

Yes