

Brown Bag results from February 24th, 2009 Brown Bag
Topic: Labor Market

Programs & Resources

- Libraries: programs, personnel, internet, media
- Current businesses ability to communicate to potential workers
- Senior citizen job availability
- Northwood's and outlets that employ handicapped people
- Local businesses: hospitals, 4-H, FFA
- Economic Development
- Madison Area Technical College; training
- Small business development center
- Women in business initiative
- Ag exchange programs
- Columbia County revolving loan fund
- UW-Extension information
- Labor market
- Temporary employment/placement agency: Adecco, QTI
- Proximity to Madison's educational resources
- Arlington Agriculture Research Station
- Northwood's
- Job fairs
- Union
- IBEW, WEAC, IUPAT, Service Workers
- Newspapers
- Online education; experience works (Green Thumb)
- Summer youth
- Division of Vocational Rehab
- W-2 and related programs
- WIA
- School and work
- Local high schools are striving for innovation

- Camps
- Farmers Union
- Financial services
- Retail
- Healthcare
- Portage Chamber of Commerce
- Madison Area Technical College Portage
- Agencies recruiting foreign workers
- High school vocational facilities
- UW-Extension
- Main Street
- Wisconsin Workforce Development
- Wisconsin South Central Workforce Development Board
- Tech programs at high schools
- Local employers and their training
- Prison training programs
- Tourism
- Agriculture Agri-Business
- Professional Service
- Manufacturing
- Temp Agencies
- Portage High School

Gaps & Needs

- More opportunities for students to participate in school to work or employment-based education, flexibility with scheduling for local students wanting to work at local jobs like in Wisconsin Dells
- Small business incubator opportunities, planning resources, additional job search readiness programs, affordable job re-training or job re-entry
- Apprenticeships

- Offering more variety of programs/classes at high schools and Madison Area Technical College
- Mentoring by businesses
- Lack of unskilled jobs
- Childcare and employer network
- Green jobs initiative, education K-12, higher education, stimulus package
- Health insurance/coverage
- Creating an on-going network between local government employers and education partners to talk about gaps and future needs
- More student and employer involvement with Wisconsin Workforce Development and CESA 5's apprentice program
- Transportation to Dane and Sauk Counties (management employment counties)
- Connecting businesses/individuals to resources
- Attracting businesses with better wages and benefits so young people will stay
- Transportation options
- Demand for higher education (college)
- Gray-collar (Information Technology)
- Destination events type business
- Exposing youth to need for community (as opposed to self)
- Involvement from employers: K-12 administration, local government, county departments
- Must work with surrounding counties to coordinate job information
- Wages
- Money
- Money for training
- Employment offices
- Knowledge sharing among groups
- Entry level jobs leading to better jobs
- Second, third shift and weekend childcare
- Sheltered workshops, supportive work environment
- More short-term affordable training
- Universal high speed internet
- Community spirit; turn ideas into realities
- Cooperation and communication
- Jobs closer to home
- Employment for people coming out of jail/prison