***Aligning CareerTech Programs/Courses***

The National Career Cluster project has given us a framework of knowledge and skills to align curriculum within career cluster areas. The opportunity to coordinate with instructors in your cluster area is critical to ensure that students are not asked to repeat learning.

1. What are the Career Clusters that closely align with a CareerTech program?
2. Are there other clusters that could be appropriate?
3. After identifying the clusters, which pathways would align most closely with your program?
4. Are there additional CareerTech programs that would cover additional pathways in your identified clusters? If no, proceed to question 5.
   1. Do you traditionally work with those instructors when recruiting and training students? Are there ways that you could work together?
   2. Have you aligned your curriculum to see if there are any core skills that you both cover that students would not have to repeat if transitioning from one program to another?
5. Have you mapped options for students?

***High Schools***

* What core academic courses should be recommended for every high school student interested in a career in your Career Cluster area?
* Are there elective courses in place that would enhance an ICAP for students interested in this Career Cluster?
* Are there student organizations or activities for students specifically related to this cluster?
* Do students have multiple work-based learning opportunities to experience the related industries?
* Are there classes, programs, or activities that need to be added to the high school schedule?

***Technology Centers***

If you are an instructor of a particular CareerTech program or course, you have the responsibility of ensuring that your curriculum is aligned with other programs within your own Career Cluster area as well as college technical programs and high school academic course offerings. This will look different for various occupational areas. For example, if you are teaching a Health Careers Certification program some of your students may have already completed an anatomy/physiology

course during high school. Would you ask them to repeat the learning objectives and competencies or could they move on into your curriculum? Just as we hope that our Practical Nursing students can move into an RN program and “fast-track” without repeating learning, we would hope that the same is true for our Health Careers Certification or Health Science Technology students progressing into our own Practical Nursing programs.

* What current programs are available for high school students that would fall within your particular Career Cluster? Are there prerequisites for program enrollment?
* Does the technology center use the student’s ICAP from the high school and help that student strengthen it with technology center programs and suggested high school courses? Are these plans used to help students plan for prior learning credits from college partners?
* Are core knowledge and skills for the cluster covered within technology center programs?
* Is there duplication of curriculum/skills taught within current programs?
* Do high school programs offer students who stay at the technology center and attend full-time adult programs a “fast-track” option or articulated credits for their previous work?
* Are there other incentives used to recruit high school health students into additional technology center programs (i.e., preference points, scholarships, etc.)?
* Have you aligned your curriculum with degree programs where appropriate?
* If there is more than one technology center campus, is there an expectation of meeting the same curriculum standards in like programs?
* Do current program offerings at the technology center meet the workforce needs of the community or region to ensure a prepared workforce?

***Colleges***

* Is there a STEM/PLTW Technology center program available that leads to a college program?
* What current Career Cluster degree programs are available for potential students?
* Do you currently have recruitment strategies for students who have been in high school and/or technology center programs (i.e., preference points, scholarships, college “health careers” day, etc.)?
* Have you determined degree programs that could give students credit from high school/technology center courses or other fast-track options for students?
* Is there duplication of curriculum/skills taught in technology center programs and college degree programs that students could get credit for and not repeat learning?
* Do the current degree programs meet the workforce needs of the community or region to ensure an adequately educated/trained workforce?
* What strategies could be implemented to work with local high schools and technology centers to ensure that students are prepared to enter programs immediately after high school graduation?