

Themes that emerged from Talent for Tomorrow Session:

- Need to focus on basic skills (specific skills mentioned: problem-solving, entrepreneur and leadership skills, financial literacy, respect, creativity, communication, art, creative thinking, civic engagement, computer skills—concerns raised about the digital divide)
- Invest in early intervention such as head start, HS completion programs. How do we increase parent involvement?
- Strengthen business involvement in education, including school visits, tours, work experience and job shadow opportunities
- Integrate clusters into the strategies
- Do we need to look at a new way of training? Examples cited included: less “silo” training, broader based training emphasizing transferable skills. How do we prepare for an unknown future?
- A lot of concerns expressed about K-12 and Community College funding
- Make sure strategies are aligned to existing programs and resources
- How can we reduce the achievement gap for minority students?
- There is a gap in information about alternatives to traditional 4 year colleges shared with high school students.
- The system needs to focus on metrics, ways to measure skills.
- Career Readiness Certificates—won’t work without employer buy in, can motivate but also demotivate.
- Make sure to include underrepresented populations.
- A lot of comments about mentorship—with entrepreneurs, non-profit sector, emerging businesses. Can we find information about mentorship best practices to replicate here?