

ENGAGE. CONNECT.

TIPS & TRENDS FROM THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR COLLEGE & CAREER TRANSITIONS

October 24, 2019

Greetings!

I was recently reading an article on the [decline in volunteerism in America](#), which apparently has been going on for some time, but has accelerated in the last five or so years. In Pennsylvania, for example, "the number of volunteer firefighters has decreased from 300,000 in the 1970s to just 38,000 last year. A dire financial situation for Pennsylvania's EMS workers, meantime, has resulted in only 17,000 statewide volunteers, down from more than 30,000." The problem is particularly acute in rural areas, which have an increasingly elderly population and declining financial base.

While young people may not be able to directly affect the decline in volunteerism within the field of emergency services (the focus of the article), their talents would be welcome in other areas. And a focus on service learning, which focuses on building skills through community service, would be a welcome start.

Service learning allows students to build skills, both interpersonal and technical skills, in a real-world environment, in a way that benefits members of their communities. Some states offer formal opportunities - [South Dakota](#), for example, offers a credit-bearing capstone class on service learning - while others have yet to embrace the model.

I would encourage you to pursue any opportunities to connect students with service learning experiences - your students will benefit greatly, and their communities need their passion and skills.

Brett

The CCL In.Sight Blog

Have you read the latest posts from [The CCL In.Sight Blog](#)? Hans and Brett share thoughts and information on Career Connected Learning. Read a recent blog post:

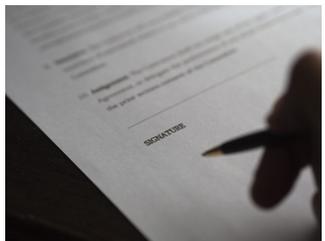
[The Value of Advisory Board Bylaws](#)

As I talk to educators across the country, I'm surprised by how few have bylaws for their advisory boards. I suppose it shouldn't actually be a surprise: They're not generally required by state departments of education, which usually ask only for minutes and sign-in sheets as proof of an active board. Since there's very little training out there on advisory boards for CTE professionals, many may not even realize the role that bylaws can play in running an effective board.

For those not familiar with them, bylaws are essentially the rules by which your board operates. They can vary quite a bit based on the needs of your program and board, but they typically define the role and scope of the board. Bylaws also define the job descriptions of general members and those in leadership roles, how long people can serve (including the length of a term and how many terms they can serve), how those in leadership roles are elected, how often the board meets, and the process for dismissing members.

[Read the full post here.](#)

And remember, if you want to receive these blog posts as they're published, just [subscribe to the blog](#) and we'll do the rest!



Manage Work-Based Learning Across Your School or District

Interested in finding new partners, managing your work-based learning initiatives, running your advisory boards, and having access to real-time reporting on work-based learning? Join us for a walkthrough of [Seamless WBL](#) to see how we can help you with the following:



- Help educators find and manage partners
- Set up and manage work-based learning activities ranging from guest speakers to apprenticeships
- Run your advisory boards, including setting up meetings and providing members with a document library
- Provide employers and students with dedicated portals to view work-based learning activities and download and upload materials
- Run reports on work-based learning activity by educator, school, district, partner, or students

And we have even more exciting features in the works for our Phase 3 release in December!

If you'd like to learn more, there are several sessions available in October for a brief online walkthrough. [Register for one of these sessions here](#), or visit the [Seamless WBL website](#) to get information on features and pricing.

FYI - Information You Can Use

[What is a "meaningful encounter" with the world of work?](#)

It is now widely accepted that encounters with the world of work are vitally important for all young people. For example employer engagement is now at the heart of the UK's Department for Education's careers strategy and international bodies like the OECD argue that it is essential that young people engage with workplaces as part of their education. This is because encounters with the work of work help to broaden young people's horizons, raises their aspirations, challenge stereotyping, increase their motivation to learn, ensuring they have the skills and knowledge they need and are well informed about the full range of modern jobs and career routes into them. In doing so it also helps reduce the mismatch between young people's career aspirations and the reality of the labour market. This article captures what is meant by "meaningful encounters" and describes a tool kit we have developed specially to help state schools plan their career provision and identify and help young people who need more support: those who are disengaged from learning or have misaligned aspirations and / or are uncertain about their future.



[Full article: https://www.educationandemployers.org/](https://www.educationandemployers.org/)

[The United States needs to re-think workforce development](#)

Over the next decade, a skills gap in manufacturing may leave an estimated 2.4 million jobs unfilled in the United States. This is not only a major problem for American businesses and the economy, but also a tragic loss of opportunity. The manufacturing industry offers immense benefits and the satisfaction that a stable, well-paying job can provide. But there's a big problem. Manufacturing faces a perception issue and fewer students are pursuing these careers because many simply aren't aware of what opportunities lie ahead. The good news is this is fixable. Among the solutions are an increased emphasis on technical education programs where students graduate with the skills necessary



to fill jobs, changing the public perception of manufacturing jobs to reflect their status as high-tech professions, and encouraging companies to invest and prioritize job training and continuing education for their employees. The first and easiest step is encouraging enrollment in technical colleges at the community and junior college level. While four-year university programs are what high schoolers are typically pushed to pursue and they provide great benefits, it may not be the right track for every student and often involves taking out debilitating student loans. As an alternative, society needs to embrace and educate our young people about other good options that exist. Let's seize the opportunity now while they work to determine their career paths and prepare for professional life.

[Full article: https://thehill.com/](https://thehill.com/)

[Raising entrepreneurs](#)

Entrepreneurial education can be life-changing, particularly for young people struggling with poverty and other oppressive situations, says Steve Mariotti, entrepreneur, former special-education teacher and founder of the nonprofit Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship. SmartBrief Education talked with Mariotti about how students can benefit from learning about entrepreneurship and business ownership and how teachers can implement these lessons in their classrooms. The following conversation has been lightly edited for brevity and clarity. Why is an education about entrepreneurialism important for today's students? Poverty rules the day-to-day lives of millions, making it impossible to plan for the future because they are stuck trying to get the simplest tasks done. It causes immense stress as people struggle with, and worry about, meeting their most immediate



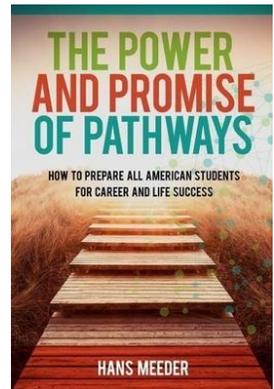
needs. Perhaps one of its most damaging impacts is that it robs a person from their ability to save for the future, as explained in "The Pedagogy of the Oppressed." In fact, institutional poverty and even some government subsidies prohibit people from starting their own businesses by requiring that they never have more than a small amount of cash in the bank.

Full article: <https://www.smartbrief.com/>

Featured Publication

The Power and Promise of Pathways

College and career pathways engage students in dynamic learning while preparing them for success in postsecondary education and training, careers, and life. *The Power and Promise of Pathways*, written by Hans Meeder of the National Center for College and Career Transitions, offers both the information and action needed to lead an effective pathways initiative in schools, colleges, and/or communities. Using cutting-edge research and real-life examples, Mr. Meeder explores:



- The value in developing and utilizing a clear definition of college, career, and life readiness for youth and adult learners
- A step-by-step approach to build a sustainable pathway system
- A career exploration system that significantly impacts the way students and their parents plan for postsecondary education and careers
- Workforce trends and analysis, examining where the U.S. workforce is headed and identifying the sectors likely to experience growth
- Key elements of effective and dynamic teaching within a pathways system
- The ways in which current school and college initiatives may be integrated into the pathways system

About the Author: Hans Meeder is co-founder and president of the National Center for College and Career Transitions, or NC3T, an organization providing coaching and technical assistance for schools and communities that are planning and implementing college and career pathways. Mr. Meeder is a former Deputy Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of Education and a nationally recognized expert, speaker, and author focusing on pathways, high school reform, career technical education, and STEM.

Purchase your copy today through the NC3T Bookstore.

About the National Center for College and Career Transitions (NC3T)

K-12 education and the adult workforce are inextricably linked; and, as even the most casual observer understands, we currently face real challenges on both fronts. **NC3T** was created to help educators, policymakers and community leaders design integrated college and career pathway systems that provide students with purpose and direction, and provide them the knowledge and skills they'll need to secure their futures and the futures of the communities in which they live.

If you're interested in connecting students to the workforce in some way, including through out-of-school initiatives, targeted in-school channels (CTE, academy models), or developing a comprehensive community-wide or regional strategy that all partners can get behind, please contact Hans Meeder (Hans@NC3T.com) or Brett Pawlowski (Brett@NC3T.com) to talk further.

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