



CommunityWorks ACTION! Workforce Development



Contracted with Northern Illinois University's Center for Government Studies (CGS) – The Workforce Development Vision Committee contracted with the CGS experts to lead data collection and analysis in support of developing strong soft skills in middle school youth.



Focus Groups and Surveys Administered with Stakeholders – To develop a basic definition of soft skills and to determine what schools already offer students; an online survey was administered to all county Middle Schools and a workshop was held for DeKalb County Educators. A definition of soft skills was created and further data collection occurred with employers, community college students representing new workers, parents, youth service providers and students



Best Practice Information was Reviewed and Analyzed – A formal review of “best practice in building soft skills in youth” occurred with a comparison to data gathered locally.



A Draft Report was Produced “DeKalb County Community Foundation CommunityWorks Initiative; Report of Soft Skills Planning Process” - CGS completed a draft report that synthesized findings, identified core concepts and offered recommendations. The draft report was reviewed by a group of advisors representing the different stakeholders surveyed from the community. The report was analyzed and feedback and discussion were noted.

.....Coming Attractions.....



Finalization of Report and Recommendations – Develop next steps for the Workforce Development Vision Committee. Possible recommendations include: modifying the set of identified soft skills with an eye toward consolidation and potential expansion to complementary skills from other frameworks, approach stakeholders to share results, and work to “make a case” for soft skills development.