



DATE: Tuesday October 16, 2018

FOCUS TEAM: Skill Gap

TEAM MEMBERS: Monica Johnson, Chair (Stanly); Jack Sharrett, (Union); John Challis, (Iredell); Cory Hill, (Rowan); Mary Walls, (Union), Fernando Little, (Cabarrus). Staff Support: Mark Seifel

GOAL: Create and facilitate a systemic communications program on skills gaps between business, workforce boards, educational systems, and the community (parents, students, leaders) about job skill and occupational needs/opportunities.

The Skills Gap Focus Team held an initial organizational meeting in Concord on Sept. 25. The team reviewed the last "Strategies and Action" document the former committee was using to try to guide their efforts and decision making. The team determined to first focus on defining the skills gap problem and collecting information to understand better the scope of the problem.

We seek to align our activities with applicable economic development strategies, so we will need to gather data on those strategies. We are working to obtain the 2017 -2022 regional economic strategy report prepared by the Centralina Economic Development Commission and copies of each county's economic development strategy documents.

We also discussed benchmarking and gathering demographic data. Finally, we set a schedule for regular web conference meetings. Our next meeting will be November 12.