

## **Pennsylvania Next Generation Sector Partnership Academy**

September 21-22, 2017

Ramada Inn and Conference Center

1450 S Atherton Street

State College, Pennsylvania

### **Regional Team Building Guidance**

The Academy will take existing and emerging Next Gen Sector Partnerships to the next level of impact by broadening and deepening partnerships between business and industry and public partners in workforce development, economic development, and education. Over the two days, there will be facilitated team times designed for you and your partners to take stock of existing activity and develop coordinated plans of action for moving Next Gen Sector Partnerships forward in your region.

#### **Who should attend?**

Regional teams of 6-10 people from workforce development, economic development, and education professionals at the local and regional level who are interested in launching and sustaining Next Gen Sector Partnerships. State-level partners in workforce development, economic development and education will be invited to attend as part of a state team.

#### **What is a regional team?**

Regional teams are composed of key leaders from workforce development, education, and economic development organizations and agencies who are engaged in moving Next Gen Sector Partnerships forward in the region.

#### **Requirements for participation:**

- Participate in the full Academy, September 21-22, 2017;
- Commitment to working with your regional team to explore potential for Next Gen Sector Partnerships in your region, either initiating new partnerships or sustaining existing partnerships
- Dedication to applying best practices and learnings from the Academy in your community

#### **How to build your regional team:**

Your core team may include 6-10 partners, comprised of key decision-makers and leaders with an open mind who are able to act on learnings from the Academy. Teams may include:

- Workforce development (i.e., CareerLink Directors, CareerLink business services managers, Workforce Development Board staff and/or members);
- Key economic development leaders (i.e., PREP Coordinators, economic development professionals and leaders);
- Key education program leaders (i.e., K-12, Community College leaders, Adult education, and/or Colleges/ Universities);
- Relevant labor-based organizations;
- Other key regional stakeholders such as community based organizations and/or elected officials.

Industry should not be included on your regional team. The Academy will be a deep dive into the nuts and bolts of selecting industries to target and facilitating planning for selecting new industries. This stage of planning can be messy and in the weeds, therefore it is often too early to bring industry into the conversation. Members of Workforce Development Boards and Economic Development Boards are often the types of industry leaders who are most effective in this detailed planning stage.

### **What Regions do regional teams cover? How do we define region?**

Defining a “region” can be difficult and can change depending on geography (urban vs. rural), types of industry, history, and demographics. Defining a “region” that fits the needs of multiple areas, initiatives, and uniquely defined boundaries is not a simple task and there is no single formula or correct definition.

Next Gen Sector Partnerships define “region” by the true labor market region of a target industry, based on where employers are located, access to suppliers and infrastructure, and commuter sheds of workers. They are not defined by established geo-political boundaries (city, county, workforce development area, education district, economic development region, etc.). In the end, good sector partnerships are defined by the industry’s footprint. If you have questions please contact Michael Leister or Gwen Ross.

### **Next Steps**

1. Build the buzz about the Academy and speak with your community leaders that fit the above description about attending the Academy and building a regional team.
2. Begin to think about building a full team and ensure that each is aware of the Academy. Your team should represent the best possible collaboration of stakeholders meeting the above criteria to select, launch and sustain Next Gen Sector Partnerships.
3. Look out for registration details.
4. For any questions please contact Michael Leister ([mileister@pa.gov](mailto:mileister@pa.gov)) or Gwen Ross ([gwross@pa.gov](mailto:gwross@pa.gov)).