

LA CTE Leadership Academy - Day 2 Highlights

With a line-up of elite Louisiana CTE experts, today's session came alive mid-day when Ronny Seals "let it all hang out" with an incendiary (and accurate) comment on the challenges of industry engagement. All of us will always remember this watershed moment, and the candid conversations that followed.

1) Great early presentation by Jayda Spillers (BPSTIL) about forming advisory panels. Required: relentless outreach, "engaging with industry on industry's terms," relentless advocacy internally to secure the quality equipment specified by advisory panels. (Detailed step-by-step implementation packages from multiple other states now available on the www.lacteleaders.com website.)

2) Amazing panel of elite CTE Supervisors - Larry Alexander, Ronda Matthews, Staci Polozola, Jessica Vallelungo. Among the many key insights: 1) don't be afraid to fail - you will; 2) learn to be comfortable asking for help; 3) "Grab responsibility" - take the initiative; 4) site tours for educators (especially counselors); 5) start recruiting / generating interest in the middle schools; and 6) "success story" student posters.

We will find ways (online and during future in-person training) to continue engaging with these CTE rock stars. We'll also invite Larry back in November to update us on revitalizing a CTE program.

3) Amazing panel discussion by WDB / REDO experts. Candid exchanges about "death by meetings" and the struggles to maintain productive industry engagement over the long-term.

Most amazing insight: "The best justification for students earning highest-value IBCs is artificial intelligence. AI is eliminating low value-added jobs."

Tips for CTE leader success: a) Make friends; b) "Your windshield is bigger than your rearview mirror. Stay focused on the future." c) "Follow your North Star - student opportunities. Make sure your passion for serving students guides all your decisions." d) "Expose your students to as many industry sectors as possible." (VWE II baby!); e) Research the job opportunities in your region - ask your REDO contact and he / she will help.

4) Edge Factor (Krystal) and Career Compass presented the available family, educator and industry outreach resources available from Edge Factor. These highest-quality, engrossing STEAM videos and support materials can be customized by classroom teachers, school CTE leaders and district CTE leaders. Suggestion: form teams to figure out how to best use these resources. Contact information in your binder - *reach out to these team members*.

5) Early conclusions from the mid-stream participant satisfaction survey: 1) we will facilitate more mentorship from and structured interactions with experienced CTE leaders; 2) we will create a mechanism for participant input into future in-person training agendas; 3) we will include time for individual and team reflection after key topics during the in-person training; 4) we will include more active learning opportunities.

6) Looking forward to a third day of active learning where we dive into the essential topics of Enterprise Modeling (with a focus on maximizing funding sources) and Developing Advocacy Skills.

Let's finish big tomorrow.

Dave Lefkowitz ("Lefty")

Assistant Superintendent - Louisiana Department of Education

Sorry - no summary of Day 2 would be complete without acknowledging the stirring speech given by Gary Weese over dinner tonight. No better demonstration of family, faith in our students and our colleagues, and common sense ever given.

We will be distributing "Weese's Wisdom" notes as a core curricular resource in all future Academy training.

