

MARITIME / TRANSPORTATION Focus Group Minutes
June 25, 2002 Regional Workforce Forum

Critical Occupations & Skill Sets

- Welder *critical thinking * reading, writing & math * 'work ethic' -*
- Shipfitter *workplace education * basic elementary education **
- Electricians *interpersonal relations – soft skills * computer skills*
- Truck Drivers
- Diesel Mechanics

- Move back to VOCATIONAL MODEL (not junior college – college prep model)
- Career Development at High School – Elementary School
- Alternative Training, Growth Oriented
- Skill Development – Secondary Education
- Volunteerism – Community
- More Flexible administration of State & Federal Training Resources

Hardest Occupations to Recruit

- Welder / Fitters
- Vessel Captains
- Truck Drivers
- Auditors / Accountants
- Engineers
- Professionals (in general)

Hardest Occupations to Train

- High-Hazard
- Laborers / Entry – level, low-wage workers
- Technicians / Development
- Unsupervised Work
- Secretarial / High –level Clerical Support

Most Utilized Training Resources

- In-house – OJT & Formal Training Programs
- Industry Associations
- Vo-tech / Delgado
- Community – based Organizations
- Contract w/University
- Private Training Organizations
- Outside Seminars
- Outsourced Training

Disconnects & Potential Remedies

Gaps In Education & Training

- Product of School System vs. Industry Needs – preK – 16
- Training Fund Availability & Procurement of Funding
- Service – based economy vs. Livable Wages

Assets – Education & Training

- Location for Industry
- Higher Educational Institutions – universities & colleges
- Cultural Assets
- Local Transportation (interparish only)

Turnover & Preventive Measures

- Poor Pay *Competitive Wages*
- Lack of Knowledge ref. Opportunities for Growth *Mentoring / Succession Planning*
- Weak Work Ethic, Maturity *Modeling Behavior*
- Educational System & Location (professional) *System Accountability*
- Abundance of Low-Paying Jobs in the Community *More competitive Industries & Tax Structure*
- Lack of benefits
- Poor Communication Skills