

## Category Nine: Building Collaborative Relationships

### Context for Analysis

#### **9C1 Key collaborative relationships**

Figure 9-1 describes the key collaborative relationships that support learning. These existing, growing and developing relationships provide many opportunities for partnering, collaborating and enhancing relationships in support of WCTC.

#### **9C2 Reinforcing mission, supporting change**

Collaborative relationships play a strong role in reinforcing WCTC's mission, vision, and strategic goals. Developing strategic partnerships is an essential element of WCTC's mission to serve "as the leader in workforce development for Waukesha County." WCTC's vision speaks to "building a better community one learner at a time through education, partnerships and technology." One of WCTC's goals states, "Maximize and expand external partnerships and external collaborations."

Collaborate relationships and partnerships support changes at WCTC through the advice of members of advisory committees who keep the College aware of needs, current trends as well as emerging trends. Collaborative relationships with other outside partners such as high schools, four-year colleges, employers, help WCTC fulfill its mission and vision.

### Processes

#### **9P1 Creating, prioritizing and building relationships**

##### Educational institutions

WCTC creates and builds relationships by pursuing partnerships that provide opportunities for high school students to interact with the College, for graduates to advance their education through articulation agreements, for innovations with business and industry and for the community to benefit from activities with the College. WCTC is recognized as a leader in developing partnerships in all areas of the district.

The College builds and maintains relationships with K-12 districts in a number of different ways. WCTC has developed articulation agreements with 21 high schools. Through a peer instructor process, the high schools teach WCTC courses, using the same text and curricula as the College. Students then receive a grade for their high school course and also receive a WCTC grade.

Through a very active School-to-Work Committee, chaired by an area school district superintendent and the WCTC VP of Learning and Student Services, strategic plans are prepared, professional development activities are shared, articulation agreements are explored, youth apprenticeship is encouraged and grant opportunities are reviewed and pursued as necessary.

In addition, WCTC has many high school students attending WCTC under the Youth Options agreement. The College sponsors Career Quest each summer which gives minority students a one-week opportunity to explore the many career opportunities available to them through WCTC, as well.

The College also supports Tech Camp which gives high school students a one-week opportunity to explore careers in the Industrial and Engineering Technology division of the College.

Also, in the fall, WCTC co-sponsors Career Expo which provides district middle-school students an opportunity to explore different career through hands-on activities. This activity involves the business and industry community as well.

WCTC has also been instrumental in helping Waukesha South High School, along with Pro Health Care and Aurora Health Care, develop a Health Academy Charter School inside Waukesha South High School. WCTC has several articulated courses available to the students in the Health Academy. This has been an outstanding project involving the high school, WCTC and the health care industry.

WCTC has built and maintains relationships with 24 four-year colleges. The College has signed agreements with other higher education institutions that, generally, permit WCTC graduates to enter the transfer institution with 60 or more credits and junior status. The four-year colleges are regularly invited to WCTC to meet with students who wish to continue their education. During student career nights when high school students and parents are invited to learn about different programs, four-year colleges with articulation agreements attend so prospective students will know about the possibility to take their associate of applied science degrees to four-year colleges. To further help students who wish