

How To Use Your Work Ready Status

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Pottawatomie County Economic Development Corporation

Pottawatomie Conty, Kansas

Manhattan, KS (KSU) is partially in Pott County

Population of county: 23,000; expected to grow 35-40% by 2035. (NBAF)

Median Household Income: approx. \$63,000; Blue Twp. Near Manhattan: \$74,000.

Four cities besides Manhattan: Four high schools, five school districts.

95.9% high school degree or higher; 32.2% bachelors or higher

2nd lowest mill levy in the state of 103 counties.

2 technical colleges in Manhattan (west side), one in Topeka (30 miles)

1 community college satellite (Highland)

Still very rural; top beef producing county in the state, as well as soybeans

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Process for Becoming Work Ready: BEW

- 1) PCEDC Board of Directors approves PCEDC Implementation Plan June 2015.
- 2.) Creation and Kickoff of Business Education Workforce (BEW) August 2015.
- 3.) BEW I: October 2015: Development of Critical Issues Facing Workforce Development in Area. (60 stakeholders)
- 4.) BEW Report Written: Table Captains for Each Issue Prepare: Nov. 2015- Feb. 2016
- 5.) BEW II: February 2016: Development of Goals, Objectives, and Strategies (65 stakeholders)
- 6.) Writing of Strategic Workforce Implementation Plan: April-May 2016; Approval by Table Captains
- 7.) SWIP Rollout: June 23, 2016: 55 in attendance
- 8.) Employer visits and Sign ups to support WorkReady: July- August 2016
- 9.) Executive Director and individual school superintendents attended Work Ready Academies, Feb, June, Sept,, and December 2016



Participation of BEW

- ▶ September 2014- December 2014: interviews with 50 business leaders
- ▶ BEW participation:
 - ▶ 35 business leaders (majority Human Resource Directors)
 - ▶ 32 educators (4 superintendents, 5 guidance counselors, 2 college Presidents)
 - ▶ 2 elected officials, 2 municipal leaders
 - ▶ 14 workforce providers (KS Works, Heartland Works)
 - ▶ 12 hours of the BEW Workshops, =50 participants times 12 hours = 600 workforce volunteer hours, not including extra time put in by all table captains.



The six goals of the SWIP

I. Enhancing
Employability
Skills

II. Enhancing
Career Clusters
and Pathways

III. Marketing
and Support for
Talent Attraction
and Retention

IV. Employing
Disabled and
Disenfranchised

V. Enhance
Availability &
Affordability of
Child Care

VI. Education
Legislation

Results in Pottawatomie County

- ▶ Schools began Work Keys testing in October 2015
- ▶ 80 employers signed up
- ▶ Minimum 600 + emerging (high schools have taken Work Keys)
- ▶ Commitment from all schools to continue testing
- ▶ Transitional goal also met but difficult (no Kansas Works office in county)
- ▶ Regional effort a possibility soon; Geary County 100%
- ▶ HR managers learn details on Work Ready and its significance
- ▶ Hit 100% of goal while attending Academy IV, December 2016
- ▶ Hit Maintenance Status February 2018.
- ▶ Purchased Work Keys Curriculum for USD 320 & 321
- ▶ Extending workforce program into Riley County with Workforce Crisis Summit in 2018 & 2019 in and Labor Analysis in 2018
- ▶ Hit double maintenance in April 2019, triple maintenance in Jan. 2020



Follow Ups and Successes

Now have quarterly Pottawatomie County Work Ready newsletter.

Use Case Studies on Work Ready web site.

Local HR Manager from tooling company has issued testimonial

Largest employer in the county is starting to use program; meeting with high schools to add Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator into curricula.

Wamego High using scores to build into IPS and develop career pathways

Students(Emerging) scores risen: 47 platinum's

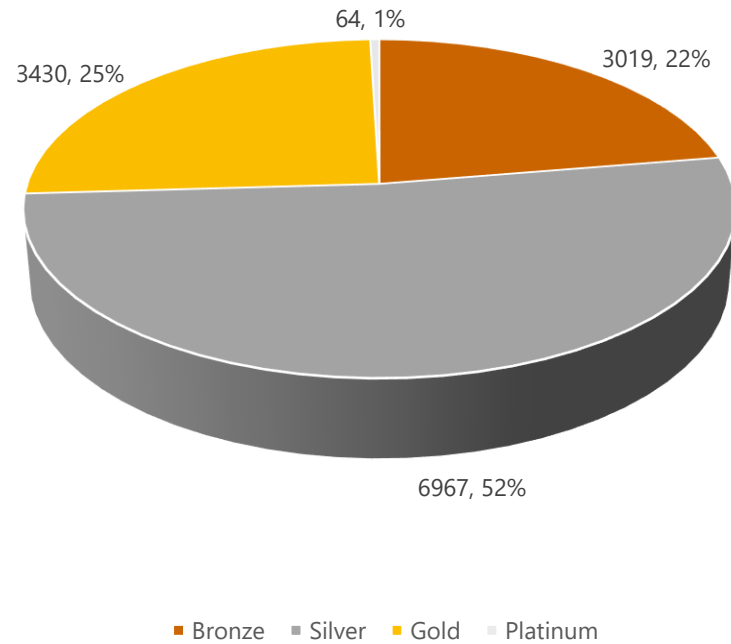
Successes and challenges of the SWIP

- ▶ Four school districts with different career and technical education programs
- ▶ Kaw Valley has established dual credit relationship with Washburn, Wamego working with Manhattan Tech.
- ▶ YEP and Peer Chamber successful in Wamego, St. Marys has clusters, Rock Creek will be technology driven. (Rock Creek now Peer Chamber)
- ▶ Piggybacked with Manhattan Chamber to run 4th grade program.
- ▶ Some employers not as heavily engaged; some using it as docking station, Sarto Countertops, Custom Woods, Florence Manufacturing, R-Tech Tool & Machine.

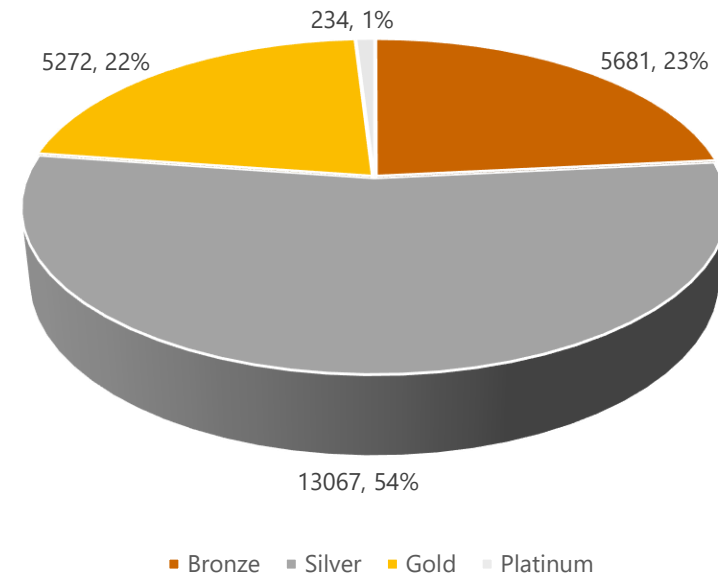
Greenville (SC) County

Work Keys Scores

Greenville County High Schools



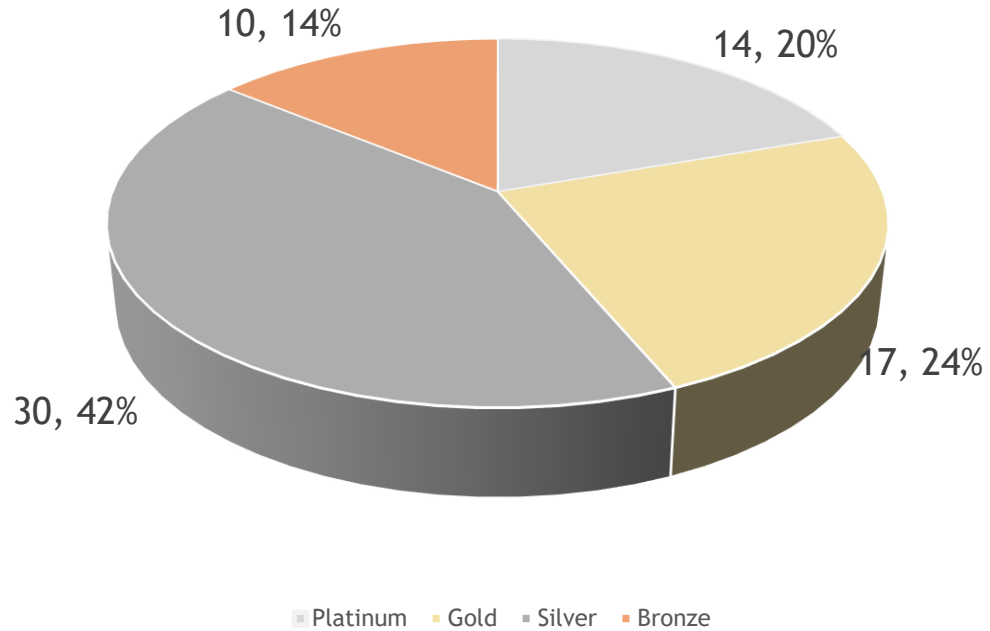
Greenville County NCRCs



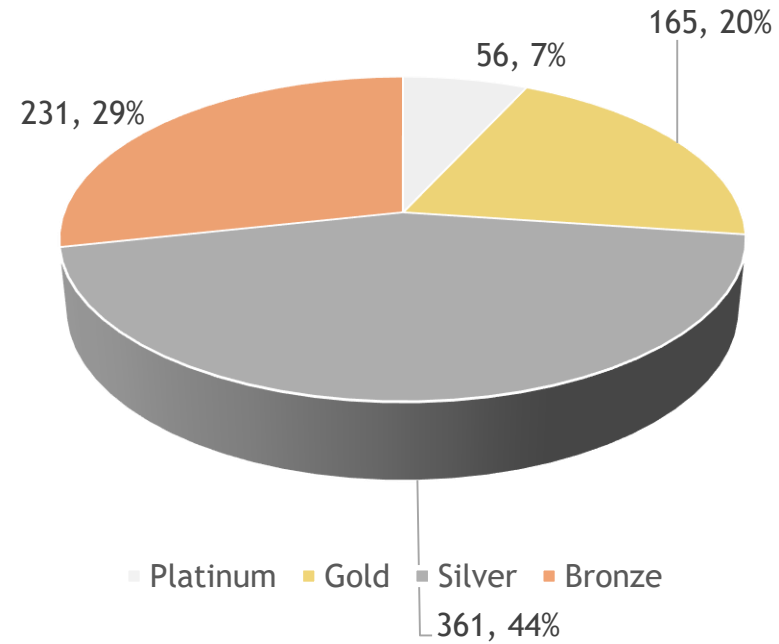
Pottawatomie County (not in the search)

Work Keys Scores

Wamego High NCRCs



Pottawatomie County NCRCs



Join the conversation using #ACTWorkforce @ACT

NCRC Data Shows Your Community Workforce Strength

- **Commitment to a Stronger Workforce**
 - **Companies**
 - **Employees**
 - **Education**
- **Validated Skill Levels**
 - **Education & Experience**
- **Comparable Across Communities**
- **Standardized Information**

ACT Work Ready Boot Camp August 2019

Boot Camp Participants



Local Employers and KS Works

