



College and Career Transitions Initiative

## LESSONS LEARNED

As the CCTI project moves forward, it is important to document lessons learned so that those following will be better equipped to develop successful Career Pathways. This “Lessons Learned” section should focus on the knowledge you have gained by this experience and what new strategies could be taken into the future. These lessons should reflect on:

- what was done right
- what could have been done differently
- how the processes and interactions could be improved

... to be more effective in the future.

LESSONS LEARNED		KNOWLEDGE GAINED NEW STRATEGIES FOR FUTURE
1	Having the Industry Council be supportive of the project has been a significant and unique benefit for the project.	We have learned how critical it is to connect industry mentors with faculty. We will work to ensure that the Industry Council members continue their involvement in promoting the mentorship program and providing access to mentors.
2	School districts have varied rules and regulations on data collection and school issues/needs.	CCTI sites need to be patient and understanding of the differences among school districts and their approaches to releasing information. We are developing new documentation for handling student records and information and are working with individual school districts to address their concerns.
3	Collection of data is more complex and time consuming because of the variations of school districts process.	We have learned that coordination of information is critical and we need to simplify our data requests to the extent possible. We have also learned that it is important to define a system at the start of the project and to work with participating schools to identify procedures for how data will be collected. We are currently developing strategies with individual schools that will use the school's data collection process. We will collect data however we can from the schools and try to find efficient ways through our newly developed data collection and reporting system for PLTW/CCTI to format information to meet the data needs for CCTI.
4	A program that is rigorous and challenging has a positive impact on the students by building their self-confidence.	It is important to focus on the students by reinforcing their achievements and accomplishments. We will be holding our first Senior Recognition Day in April. Students will have the opportunity to display their capstone projects.

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5	When there are more groups/entities involved with a project, having a clear description of roles and tasks helps develop collaboration.	Because of the breadth and depth of the CCTI initiative, communication at appropriate levels to ensure wide-scale buy-in has been a challenge. Coordination of effort and sharing of information is vital. We are working to improve the project and to promote communication among all groups in order to advance implementation. In addition to other strategies, monthly meetings of key stakeholders are being implemented in April 2006.