



Mining for Skills: Connecting rural students with programs that facilitate career success

Agenda

October 24, 2017, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Big Stone Gap, Cedar Bluff, and Wytheville, Virginia

Objectives for the event:

- Learn about the benefits of postsecondary education and training.
- Discuss and learn about the primary barriers to postsecondary access in the southwest Virginia region, with a focus on academic coursework in middle and high school.
- Connect with college and career training programs in the region.

9:00 – 9:15	<p>Welcome & agenda review (web conference) <i>Deborah Jonas, REL AP Director, SRI International</i></p> <p>Session goals and activities The facilitator introduces participants and set the context of the event.</p>
9:15 – 9:30	<p>Why are we here today? Continuing education or training beyond high school: What the evidence tells us (web conference) <i>Deborah Jonas, REL AP Director, SRI International</i></p> <p>Session goals and activities The facilitator describes the benefits of postsecondary education and training for individuals and for communities; introduces the theme of opening doors for <i>all</i> students to make choices about their postsecondary education and training so they can successfully compete for high-paying jobs and have enriching careers; and, highlights ways that students should be preparing for college and careers.</p>
9:30 – 10:30	<p>Guiding students to achieve their dreams: Student scenario activity 1 (onsite) <i>Kori Hamilton Biagas, communication specialist, REL AP, SRI International, (Wytheville)</i> <i>Jessica Mislevy, REL AP partnership co-lead, SRI International, (Southwest Virginia)</i> <i>Aliya Pilchen, REL AP partnership liaison, SRI International, (Mountain Empire)</i></p> <p>Session goals and activities Participants reflect on their own experiences as educators and advisors and explore pathways in postsecondary education and the supports to help students succeed there.</p>
10:30 – 10:45	<p>Break</p>
10:45 – 11:30	<p>Guiding students to achieve their dreams: Student scenario activity 2 (onsite) <i>Kori Hamilton Biagas, communication specialist, REL AP, SRI International, (Wytheville)</i> <i>Jessica Mislevy, REL AP partnership co-lead, SRI International, (Southwest Virginia)</i> <i>Aliya Pilchen, REL AP partnership liaison, SRI International, (Mountain Empire)</i></p> <p>Session goals and activities Participants learn more about career opportunities available in southwest Virginia, and the K–12 coursework and postsecondary degrees or certifications that are recommended to ensure students can enter those careers.</p>



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11:30 – 12:30	<p>Working lunch and program introductions (web conference) <i>Joseph Frey, senior associate, REL AP, Community Training and Assistance Center (CTAC)</i></p> <p>Session goals and activities Over lunch, each of the programs participating in the event, including those at other locations, give participants a brief teaser introduction to their program.</p>
12:30 – 1:30	<p>Program presentations (onsite) <i>Deborah Jonas, REL AP Director, SRI International, (Wytheville)</i> <i>Bill Slotnik, founder and executive director, REL AP, CTAC, (Southwest Virginia)</i> <i>Joseph Frey, senior associate, REL AP, CTAC, (Mountain Empire)</i></p> <p>Session goals and activities At each of the three separate locations, programs each provide a more in-depth 10- to 15-minute presentation (discussing parameters, prerequisites, certifications awarded, and the application process including any scholarships or financial aid available).</p>
1:30 – 2:30	<p>Gallery walk and networking (onsite) <i>Deborah Jonas, REL AP Director, SRI International, (Wytheville)</i> <i>Bill Slotnik, founder and executive director, REL AP, CTAC, (Southwest Virginia)</i> <i>Joseph Frey, senior associate, REL AP, CTAC, (Mountain Empire)</i></p> <p>Session goals and activities With support from facilitators, educators engage in informal conversations with program staff in the three locations about how programs meet specific student needs and consider next steps to increase visibility of these programs in schools and school divisions.</p>
2:30 – 3:00	<p>Wrap-up and adjournment (web conference) <i>Jessica Mislevy, REL AP partnership co-lead, SRI International</i></p> <p>Session goals and activities Participants across locations come back together to reflect on what they have learned and how they can put it into action in their organization or community.</p>

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