

Governor Carney Accepts Strategic Plan from Delaware Pathways Steering Committee

Plan would improve Delaware's efforts to connect educators and employers, and expand work-based learning

WILMINGTON, Del. – The Delaware Pathways Steering Committee presented its Strategic Plan to Governor John Carney on Wednesday – including priorities designed to more effectively connect Delaware educators and employers, create additional work-based learning opportunities for Delaware middle and high school students and better prepare Delaware students to enter college or a career in a high-growth industry.

Governor Carney is committed to expanding work-based learning opportunities for Delaware students, and is reviewing the Committee's plan.

“Delaware's economy remains in a period of significant transition, and we should ensure our schools are teaching the skills that employers demand,” said **Governor Carney**. “That means connecting Delaware's educators with our employers, allowing our students to gain practical, work-based experience and retooling our workforce development programs to help students and employers succeed. Thank you to the members of the Steering Committee for producing this Strategic Plan, which will help us prepare Delaware's students to succeed in jobs of the future.”

Governor Carney will speak at 1:45 p.m. Wednesday to the [Third Annual Delaware Pathways Conference](#) at the Chase Center on the Riverfront in Wilmington.

Delaware launched its Pathways to Prosperity initiative in 2015 to [establish partnerships](#) between Delaware employers and

educators, and better prepare Delaware's students for college or a career. Governor Jack Markell signed Executive Order 61 last year, creating the Steering Committee to [expand the Pathways program](#).

The Strategic Plan released on Wednesday includes five core priorities:

- Build a comprehensive system of career preparation that aligns with the state and regional economies;
- Scale and sustain meaningful work-based learning experiences for students in grades 7-14;
- Integrate our education and workforce development efforts and data systems;
- Coordinate financial support for Delaware Pathways;
- And engage employers, educators, and service providers to support Delaware Pathways.

The Steering Committee includes representatives from the Delaware Departments of Education and Labor, the Delaware Economic Development Office, the Delaware Workforce Development Board, Delaware Technical Community College, United Way of Delaware, the Delaware Business Roundtable Education Committee, the Rodel Foundation, Capital One, and Delmarva Power.

“The Steering Committee is proud of the report and very pleased that these recommendations will add a level of continuity to the great work already being done in our state to provide middle and high school students career awareness and work-based learning experiences,” said **Mark Brainard, President of Delaware Technical Community College, who Chairs the Steering Committee**. “Governor Carney’s support of Pathways demonstrates his commitment to building Delaware’s talent pipeline for the future by engaging all of our high school students in comprehensive college and career readiness programs.”

“As the Chair of the Workforce Development Board for Delaware and President of one of the largest businesses in the State, I see the Pathways effort as a critical transformation of how we approach workforce development in the future, and the Strategic Plan represents a significant collaboration across all stakeholders that clearly defines the steps to success,” said **Gary Stockbridge, President, Delmarva Power Region for Pepco Holdings, Inc.** “I look forward to helping execute this plan and creating a workforce that keeps Delaware competitive and the place to thrive for the business community.”

[Click here](#) to read the full report.

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