

Preparing for the January 22-24 Sector Institute

To make best use of your time while at the Sector Institute, we recommend that your team meet prior to January 22nd to discuss what you would like to get out of the Institute, including your goals for attending and how a sector approach (such as a Regional Skills Partnership) will work in your region. The below questions will help you in this team discussion.

Questions for Your Team to Consider

Why a team approach?

- **On a 1 to 5 scale, where would you rate your team in its current Industry Sector Work ?**

1= We don't know what Industry Sector work is

5= We have a good understanding of what Industry Sector work is and have several industry sector projects already under way.

Circle one: 1 2 3 4 5

- Do important stakeholders in your region agree that workforce development and economic development are critically linked?
- Do you see a need for a different approach to skills-based economic development to address regional workforce and economic needs? Why or why not?
- Do you see an advantage to coordinating closely across education and training, economic development, and employers to address your region's needs?
 - Have you already done any close coordination among these major actors?
- What about a sector approach do you understand will work for your region and your region's key industries?

Why this particular team?

- Who is on the team? Have you worked with each other before? What is each team member's interest in participating at the Institute?

- How was this team chosen? Are there any missing stakeholders?

Have you identified an industry of focus?

- If so, what data and information did you use to identify the industry? How did the data and information lead you to that particular industry? Can you tell what major skills (or related) challenges are facing that industry?
- If not, what data and information can you draw upon to identify the key industries in your region? What questions do you have about what it means to identify a “key industry”?

What planning have you done already?

- Does this team have a shared goal or objective from participation in the Institute? If so, what is it? If not, what steps are needed to identify one? What generally does this team want out of participation?
- Is there one agency or organization taking the lead? How did that entity find itself in that position? What is the current role of that entity? What is the desired future role?
- If a key industry has been identified, are there employers on the team? If so, what is their role? If not, how can they be engaged? How would they be selected?
- If a key industry has been identified, how will this team begin to uncover the root causes of challenges in that industry? If not, what are the first steps to identifying a key industry of focus?
- What expectations does the team have about the timeline of its work?

What to Expect at the Institute

Your team will be ready to take full advantage of the Institute’s information and tools if, at a minimum, you have discussed the above questions. The Institute will combine informative panels with facilitated team planning time, and will introduce you to a Sector Toolkit, toward the goal of preparing you and your region to launch a Regional Skills Partnership in a critical industry of your choice. This skills-based approach to regional economic development is successfully being used across the country, and already working in some places in Oklahoma. The Institute is

an opportunity to expand the model, learn from experts, and critically assess the needs of your region for current and future economic growth.

We look forward to seeing you in Norman!