

Designing an Effective 21st Century VET/CTE System
GCEN Working Group Meeting
Melbourne, Australia
May 21 – 23, 2014

The GCEN VET/CTE working group will focus on the design of an effective *system*. We acknowledge that the school context is critical, but that it is embedded within the larger education system. Given this context, the responsibility of the system is to:

1. Give students the needed cognitive and non-cognitive knowledge and skills to enable a smooth transition from school to work;
2. Provide employers with skilled entry-level employees in the numbers that are needed;
3. Give providers assistance to develop training and support so students meet employer needs; and
4. Provide a skilled workforce to power a prosperous city, regional, and/or national economy.

Therefore the **overarching goals** of the GCEN CTE/VET Working Group on Designing a 21st Century Workforce are:

- To collaboratively develop knowledge drawn from GCEN cities and elsewhere on effective systems approaches to CTE/VET;
- For GCEN cities to use this knowledge to plan and develop an agenda for innovation and systemic improvements in their CTE/VET systems; and
- To disseminate knowledge on effective policies and practices generated by the working group, including insights on “how cities learn” to adapt best practices to their context.

The Melbourne meeting is the launch of the working group. Therefore, the **goals of the meeting** are for participating cities to:

- Understand how both GCEN cities and others are creating systemic processes and structures to continuously improve CTE/VET education.
 - Outcome: Prior to the meeting, each city will be asked to complete a protocol addressing criteria for an effective VET/CTE system. We will use these common criteria throughout the meeting to examine highly effective systems, and prompt thinking on how to apply this learning in various contexts.
- Develop initial strategies for further collaborative and individual work toward development of a strategy for systemic improvements in their CTE/VET systems.
 - Outcome: Each GCEN city will formulate and report out on a *strategy for taking home lessons from the Melbourne meeting* to
 - document what it has learned,
 - identify critical remaining or new questions it wishes to address and options for addressing those questions, and
 - take action to engage appropriate people within and outside its education system in discussion, further research, and planning toward systemic improvements in its CTE/VET system.

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Catholic Leadership Center

28 Albert Street

East Melbourne, Australia

May 21 – 23, 2014

Agenda

Wednesday, May 21

We will be meeting in Studio 8 at the Catholic Leadership Center. Please go there after eating breakfast in the dining room each morning.

9:00am – 9:20am

Welcome and introductions

- Tony Jackson, Asia Society
- Stephen Elder, Catholic Leadership Center
- Sonia Sharp, Victoria Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

9:20am – 10:00am

Understanding Melbourne

Moderator: Tony Mackay

Speakers:

- George McLean, Victoria Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Goals:

- To develop deeper understanding of the core components of Melbourne's VET reforms – strengths and challenges
- To exchange perspectives on key questions, strategies, and best practices to look for on site visits

10:00am – 4:30pm

Site Visits

Goals:

- Understand the Melbourne school-based VET system and how teachers are trained.

Evening and dinner

A dinner and informal conversation will be arranged for GCEN city teams. All other participants will be on their own.

Thursday, May 22

- 9:00am – 9:05am **Welcome**
- Aine Maher, Independent Schools Victoria
- 9:05am – 10:30am **Reflections on Site Visits/Debrief**
Moderator: Tony Mackay
- 10:30am – 12:00pm **Sharing an Effective CTE/VET System**
Moderator: Marc Tucker
- Speakers:*
- TAN Seng Hau, ITE Academy, Singapore
 - Samuel Mühlemann, University of Munich, Germany and University of Bern, Switzerland
- Goals:*
- To clarify and extend understanding of contrasting models of systemic VET reform from the perspective of those in charge of maintaining, resourcing, and improving the system overall.
- 12:00pm – 1:00pm Lunch
- 1:00pm – 3:00pm **Using the Singapore and Swiss VET Systems to Identify the Main Options and Tradeoffs for VET System Design**
Moderator: Marc Tucker
- Moderated discussion of what was learned in the morning
- 3:00pm – 3:15pm Break
- 3:15pm – 4:45pm **Applying Our Analysis to Our Own Cities**
- GCEN cities will draw on the discussion at the meeting as well as the webinars and background readings to consider how their own CTE/VET systems could be redesigned for greater effectiveness and efficiency
- 5:30pm **Dinner at the William Angliss TAFE**
- Speaker: Richard Bolt, Secretary, Victoria Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
- Please gather in the lobby of the CLC at 5:30pm to board the bus to dinner. The bus will bring you back to CLC at the conclusion of dinner.*

Friday, May 23

9:00am – 10:30am

City Planning Time

- City teams meet (independently or with a facilitator if desired), to finalize their system design.
- Create a presentation/report-out to be shared with the entire group.

10:30am – 10:45am

Coffee Break

10:45am – 12:45pm

City Presentations

- In this section, the GCEN cities will each present their design for 10 minutes followed by discussion.

12:45pm – 1:30pm

Lunch

1:30pm – 2:45pm

Transforming CTE/VET systems

Moderator: Tony Mackay

- How do we go back home and begin to implement change? What are some of the common challenges we face? Who are some of the institutions/stakeholders that must be involved?

2:45pm – 3:45pm

Wrap up and Next Steps for the Working Group

Moderator: Tony Mackay

- Moderated discussion: City ideas for continued collaborative learning and consultation opportunities.

3:45pm

Closing/Adjourn