

Leadership South Shore Education Awareness Day - March 2019



Leadership South Shore



Education & the Workforce

Can South Shore Educate for the Demand

One of the topics of high importance to a region is jobs and education. Both nationally and here on the South Shore, attention is being paid to the changing face of workforce needs. More and more companies are seeking technical, skilled labor.

The modus operandi for traditional high school has been to prepare students to attend four-year colleges and universities where they will peruse degrees launching them into professional careers. While this is a suitable route for many, other students wish to embark on a different path. Further, the traditional education can leave employers shorthanded when seeking to fill technical and vocational positions. Who is training today's mechanics, medical technicians, skilled factory labor etc.?

The 2019 Leadership South Shore cohort spent Education Awareness Day exploring the issue. The day was off to a lively start as the cohort shared answers to the question "What did you want to be when you grew up." With the conversation continuing the group travelled by bus to South Eastern Regional Vocational Technical High School. Here the cohort saw first hand the important role technical high schools are playing in helping to fill the job gap. A tour of the school informed the group of the many programs offered which allow student to graduate from high school right into careers. Programs like: manufacturing, automotive technology, carpentry, culinary arts to name just a few.

From the votech campus, the group travelled to the Canton Campus of Massasoit Community College where they had the opportunity to tour the campus and then hear from a lively panel discussing post-secondary education/training opportunities. Representatives from Massasoit and Quincy College talked about the cost savings and career readiness provided by community colleges, Bridgewater State University shared information on the importance of internships as a path to career success, while staff from Toni & Guy Hair Salons and a representative from the National Guard gave their perspective on "non-traditional" job paths.

The cohort is comprised of some of the region's top business and non-profit leaders. Being apprised of the employment needs of the region and education's readiness to meet those needs is essential.

