

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

GOAL: DEVELOP AN EDUCATED WORK FORCE WITH THE SKILLS AND TRAINING REQUIRED TO SERVE CURRENT AND FUTURE KENT COUNTY EMPLOYERS

Strategy: Commit to excellence in the school system

Kent County should strive to have the best school system in the state and cater to the needs of all students. This will require innovative practices and outreach to business and community leaders.

Strategy: Develop secondary and post-secondary school training and apprenticeship programs that will train local residents and provide skilled workers

The presence of a skilled labor force is a critical ingredient in attracting new employers as well as satisfying the growth demands of existing businesses. Training and apprenticeship programs developed in cooperation with local businesses and non-profit organizations including resource-based business will help meet their needs, while also providing opportunities for Kent County workers to advance and obtain better-paying jobs.

Kent County Government will encourage a continued dialog between the business community and the various educational institutions, including but not limited to the Kent County school systems, Washington College, and Chesapeake College, to identify those skills needed by graduates to successfully compete in the job market.

Strategy: Re-emphasize trade education at Kent County High School and in the community

Job training in our public school system must meet the needs of our present and future demand. The County recognizes the need to strive for excellence at both the academic and the vocational level in our public school system. In cooperation with the local community, Kent County will identify jobs and special skills needed in Kent County, such as historic restoration and paramedical. The County will also seek to develop partnerships with local trade organizations to provide training for a variety of job opportunities.

Strategy: Increase involvement of local businesses in local education system

The Economic Development Office will foster a cooperative relationship among the Board of Education, private employers, community colleges and training facilities to establish and nurture vocational training programs. These programs that satisfy the training needs of local businesses will develop skills in younger workers and re-train existing workers. These programs will emphasize skills that will be needed in the future and training that enables workers to learn and adapt to new technologies.

Strategy: Work with Washington College and Chesapeake College to strengthen research-based job opportunities for graduates

The County will continue to work to provide a connection between Washington College's growing strength in the research field and the County's economic development. Likewise, the County will encourage County employers to recruit Chesapeake College graduates.

Strategy: Support development of marine trade programs

Marine trades offer well-paying, skilled jobs. Marinas require staff with specialized training to service, construct, repair, commission, and maintain boats. Currently, there is a need for these skilled employees and marine trade programs that can certify students in these specialized areas are important to the County's economy.

Strategy: Promote historic restoration education

Kent County's historic preservation not only promotes our sense of community, but also provides an economic niche market for heritage tourism and historic renovation. The County will support a variety of educational tools such as historic restoration training in the high school trade education program and apprenticeship programs.