

Community Conversations

Community Conversations are a highly effective way to bring people together to talk about community issues. Let's Get to Work pilot high school sites have used Community Conversations to create awareness as well as to discuss strategies and resources that can help youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) get jobs in their communities.

What is a Community Conversation?

Community Conversations are events or gatherings to talk about ways to improve a local problem.

- ⊙ Conversations are held at a welcoming place.
- ⊙ Typically last about 2 hours.
- ⊙ 2 – 3 questions are provided by the organizers.
- ⊙ People discuss the questions in small groups to share their experiences and ideas about the issue at hand.
- ⊙ Food is usually included.

What are the benefits?

- ⊙ Meet new people and make new connections.
- ⊙ Attendees learn about community resources.
- ⊙ Group discussions create energy for change and hope.
- ⊙ Gain a better understanding about the problem.
- ⊙ Together, people generate solutions.



Who is invited?

Everyone is needed and invited! Including: families, students, church members, employers, neighbors, service providers, school staff, and more!

Why do these conversations work?

- ⊙ Community members bring different perspectives about the problem and fresh ideas for solutions.
- ⊙ When people come together to discuss local issues, they will learn about resources and opportunities.
- ⊙ All communities have opportunities and resources available to the people who live there. Community Conversations can help identify them.
- ⊙ Real, lasting change is most likely to happen when the answers and plans come from the people who live in the community.

For tools to help you plan a Community Conversation:

[Launching Inclusive Efforts through Community Conversations: A Practical Guide](#)

[Other Community Conversation Resources](#)

A Community Conversation...
a gathering of local La Crosse County community stakeholders to discuss empowering our youth with disabilities through employment and community involvement!

See you there!!!

Date: 05/07/12
Time: 5–7 p.m.
RSVP by 5/3/12 to:
Brenda Swoboda
608.526.1337 or
swobre@holmen.k12.wi.us

Dinner will be served!
Holmen High School
Large Group
Instruction
(LGI) room.

Students with & without disabilities
Employers
School Staff
Agencies
Community Leaders
Clergy
Community Groups
Parents

Holmen High School was fortunate to get a federal grant through the Board for People with Developmental Disabilities to work on increasing employment outcomes and inclusive community involvement for our youth with disabilities from 15-17 years of age. Come and share your insights and hear what some local community members are already doing and where we can go from here!

We VALUE and NEED your input!