***WORKFORCE READINESS COMMITTEE SHARES BEST PRACTICE***

The Workforce Readiness Committee of the Human Resources Association of Central Ohio (HRACO) invests the energy and expertise of its members to elevate employment in the Columbus area. The committee, which possesses twelve to fifteen members, is having a significant impact on unemployed or under-employed individuals – as well as career changers. They support the work of many non-profit organizations serving diverse populations.

One such organization is New Directions Career Center (NDCC), a non-profit agency specializing in career development for over 30 years. In 2011, HRACO’s Workforce Readiness Committee committed to dedicating time and resources to the organization’s clients.

“Experts in human resources have volunteered at the Center since the non-profit agency’s founding more than 33 years ago,” explained HRACO and NDCC staff member Cynthia Kazalia. “The expanded relationship with HRACO, however, has resulted in an additional influx of dynamic, forward-thinking professionals who desire to share their insights with job seekers who could benefit.”

The Workforce Readiness Committee kicked-off ***Sixty Minutes to Greater Professional Success,*** a monthly, one hour workshop series facilitated by HRACO members, in January 2012. Members also held a successful supply drive, donated books for the client library, conducted mock interviews, provided shadowing experiences and informational interviews – ~~and~~ plus much more.

According to Tammy Evans, Vice-President, Workforce Readiness Committee, the collaboration makes sense. “This organization is committed to supporting its members in a variety of ways. We offer support through education, legislative activities, and much more. But successful recruitment and retention efforts top the needs of so many Columbus area organizations.”

That’s why, in January 2013, the Workforce Readiness Committee expanded its volunteer presence at NDCC to include ***Meet the Recruiter***. Scheduled the 3rd Wednesday of each month – at the Center – from 3:00pm – 4:30pm,***Meet the Recruiter***is designed to expand companies’ community visibility and connect them with qualified job seekers.