

## Five Areas of Concern

### 1. Student Achievement Gap

- Too many of our young people do not receive the rigorous, world-class high school education that they need to succeed in the 21st century.
- Many HS reform initiatives aim to keep more students in school, enroll them in more challenging classes, and raise HS graduation and college matriculation and retention rates. These are important goals, but if every HS in the country achieved these goals, HS graduates would still remain lacking in preparation for the world they are entering.
- The skills necessary for entering post secondary education are virtually the same skills necessary for success in the modern workplace - the results that matter apply to ALL students.

### 2. Crisis and Globalization

- The primary aim of education is not to enable students to do well in school, but to help them do well in the lives they lead outside of school.....in our case, a life that exists within the context of the globe.
- In the era of abundance, it will not be sufficient to create products the way we current do as everyone's price and quality is narrowing to "sameness".....As a result, there is a growing need for personalization and customization thus influencing the way that business is conducted but also how schools will function.
- The routine production of goods and services that were once dominated by the US workforce are rapidly being done by a increasingly educated foreign workforce.
- Technology has flattened the world as we know it!
- Remember, electric lighting was rare a century ago...Today it is common place and abundant.....Yet, candle making is a 2.4 Billion dollar a year business!

### 3. Economic Development

- The purpose of school is not just to have students do well in school, it's to have them do well in life.
- Students' education should prepare them to succeed in the environment in which they exist.
- Education must therefore think of itself as part of the Economic Development "Engine."

### 4. Collaboration

- Who needs to collaborate?
- Our companies are in a fragile position. They are operating on a thin financial margin. How soon will it be before schools must do the same? BOCES may need to cooperate more with one another to bring down costs
- Tightening financial resources for schools coupled with a growing tax revolt in our smaller, more rural communities. (At BOCES, we need to find ways to cut back on the business side so we can devote more resources to program development).

Responding as a region – 4 BOCES

Responding as individual BOCES w/in the context of collaboration

Responding as leaders of BOCES Programs (CTE, Sp. Ed., Alt. Ed., School Support Services)

Responding as leaders of our component k-12 school systems

## 5. Leadership

### Needs to be:

1. **Proactive** - demonstrating vision and supporting risk taking.
2. **Creative** - seeking out and developing prototype programs with community partners that will meet the challenge of preparing all students to be college ready.
3. **Persuasive and Persistent** - in moving the current education "System" in a direction that will be able to meet the challenges presented by a Global Economy in a "Flat World."