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State works to match training, future jobs

By Pamela Engel

State officials are assembling a work-force forecast for southwestern Ohio as part of a soon-to-be-statewide program that will help determine where employee shortages are and what skills workers need to land the positions.

Gov. John Kasich wants to link education and training programs to businesses in the state, and this program is a step in that direction. Those involved in the project are distributing a survey to about 25 companies near Cincinnati asking what jobs might be available several years from now and what skills those workers probably will need.

The testing period for the system should be completed this year, said Rich Frederick, the executive director of the governor's Office of Transformation.

"We want to have it right," Frederick said. "It needs to be able to work before we can be able to deploy it statewide."

Cincinnati's chamber of commerce came up with a list of industry sectors to survey for the program, including manufacturing, health care and information technology, Frederick said.

"Some of them aren't going to need a four-year or two-year degree," he said. "It's going to be a mix of skilled-certificate training and four-year degrees."

Businesses that require applicants to have degrees can team up with universities to discuss what their curriculum should look like.

Article continued here: <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/business/2012/09/27/state-works-to-match-training-future-jobs.html>

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