

# Eagle Manufacturing a School and Community Partnership

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## **Background That Led to Your Inquiry:**

Through this journey I have increased my own professional knowledge and modeled the inquiry process for my staff. I have also increased my own self-efficacy and feel comfortable leading my staff through data meetings. Therefore I was able to increase my own professional self-efficacy through the use of inquiry based leadership.

## **Statement of Your Wondering:**

How can I become a more effective instructional leader by leading the development involving Eagle Manufacturing, a school and community partnership?

## **Methods/Procedures:**

Overall it became very clear that one piece of my frustration with data meetings was due to the very different opinions my staff held regarding what data really impacted their practice and what data did not.

## **Stating Your Learning and Supporting it with Data:**

My Two key findings during this Action Research Project were:

That community partners (businesses) love the idea of partnering with our school.

The first finding is supported not only by them attending planning meetings, being on the advisory board, but also donating equipment/money in support of Eagle Manufacturing.

Our community partners are looking for future employees.

This was supported by Cummins attending graduation practice this year. They sit up a table with doughnuts and information about their company. This included how you could work for them next week or jobs that require further education.

## **Providing Concluding Thoughts:**

As I reflect on this project and plan ahead for next school year, I have some ideas on how I can expand this project. I want to work with business partners and see if they would be willing to provide support on expanding this program for more than just one period a day. This could be done with matching money so we could hire another staff member or providing us with workers from their business to help oversee this program. I also want my teachers to attend the IMTS in Chicago for professional development on how to expand and enhance Eagle Manufacturing.

As I reflect on what doing this action research project meant to me, I realized that people want to be involved they just don't know how. This project always made a better and more reflective administrator by getting me outside my comfort zone during this project.

**References:**

Whitaker, T (2012). What great principals do differently: 18 things that matter most. New York: Routledge.