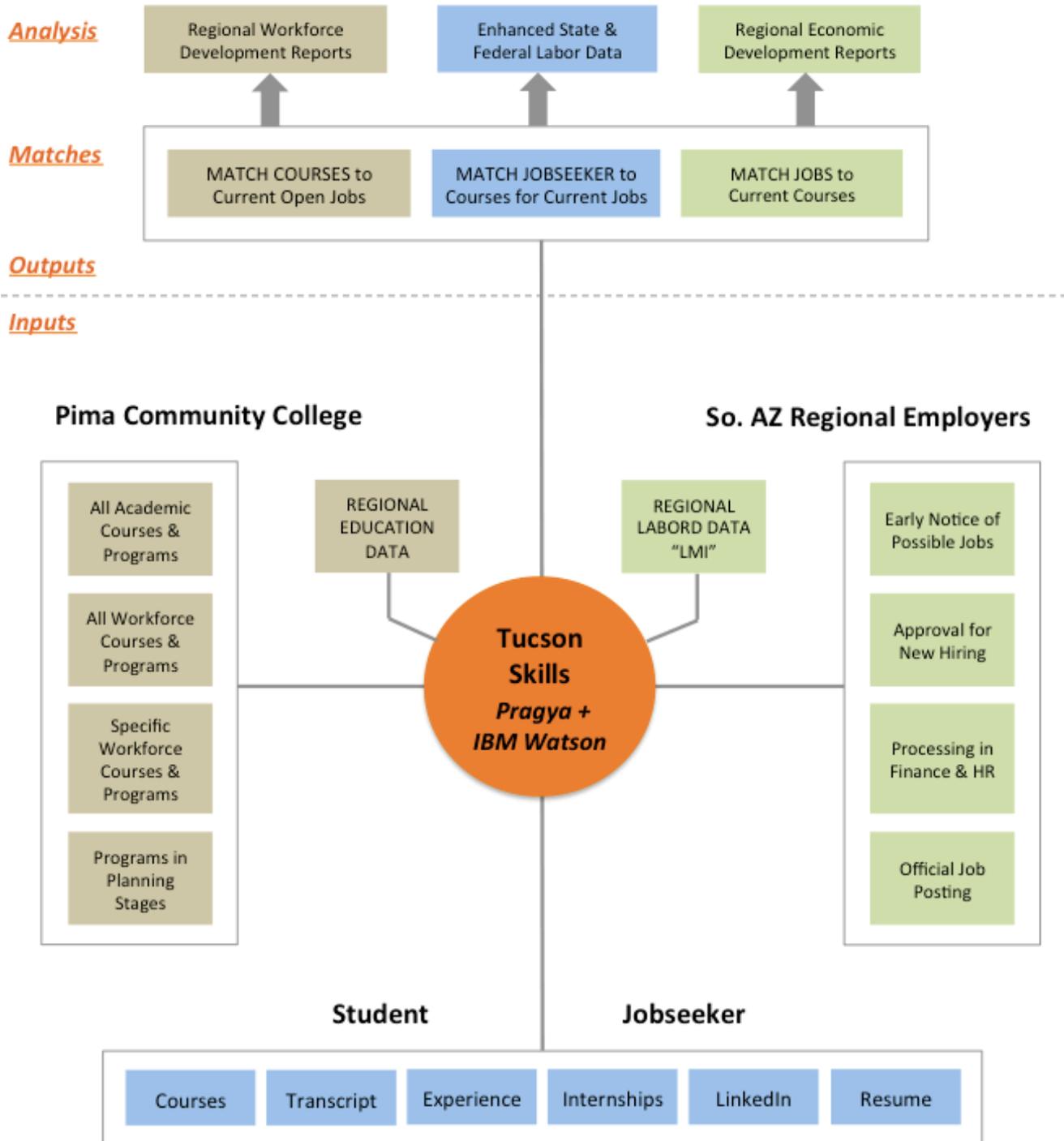


NLET: Edu2Work Program / Partner Pima College / Tucson



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DISCUSSION

NLET has formed a relationship with Pragma Systems to develop their higher education technology into a potent force to answer the Workforce development needs for sophisticated data working between multiple stakeholder institutions, employers, agencies and jobseekers.

PragyaSystems.com is a higher education start-up providing campuses the ability to pull data from all their systems (Admissions, SIS, LMS, CRM, Advising, Counseling, Alumni) and from outside data and deliver that data to end-user students in personalized LearningStreams™.

The data are passed through the IBM Watson system, a Pragma partner, which can build specific and powerful insights for student planning, advising, exploring work experience, and exploring the job market.

Pragya is composed of expertise from the consumer content space and education technology experts who have written connectors to move data from any system on campus or any databases external to campus, into their LearningStreams™. Pragma was beta tested at MIT, received its first funding from NSF and well-known higher education angel funders. It operates at Northeastern University and Kenyon College.

Gordon Freedman of NLET.org has been consulting for Pragma arranging university visits and helping develop marketing materials. In the process of this work it became clear that Pragma could reach into local and regional community college course and workforce program listings, working LMI providers, and work with employers to get job intention and job postings data, could have students or jobseekers upload their resumes, transcripts, and other personal-employment information and then make very good matches between regional jobs and regional course offerings and compare these to the scraped regional and national LMI data.

The analytics produced could help make the entire process of choosing what programs to develop, for creating an understanding by employers of aligning jobs and training, and for state and federal labor agencies to provide much better guidance to jobseekers or for Pima to do better career counseling. Ultimately, the tool will support jobseeker social networking.

We intend to run pilots to see if the system can perform in the approach outlined here, and if it does look for the funding to scale. Unlike NLET's JobSignals project, which has a funded software specification, or the NLET's Competency and Assessment Management Systems (CAMS) concept funded by Gates, the Pragma and IBM Watson software exists and just needs pilot data for the inputs and outputs and analyses. This system would produce reports and can be used to run analytics across the course-employer-agency-jobseeker landscape.

Gordon Freedman, President, NLET.org