

WORKFORCE CENTERS

of South Central Kansas

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Workforce Alliance (WA) Youth Employment Committee Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2024 – 11:30 AM

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

The Workforce Alliance Youth Employment Committee assembled via ZOOM. The meeting was called to order and self-introductions were given. Stacia Kaylor, the new K-12 coordinator at Textron Aviation, attended the meeting and was introduced.

2. **Program Updates**

Denise Houston shared an update on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth program. Youth staff and leadership continue to focus on outreach activities targeting potential participants, employers and the Roadtrip Nation project. Orientation sessions continue to be offered virtually twice a week. The sessions seem to be well-received by youth participants. The virtual option resolves some of the transportation barriers that many youth experience. Partners have found this option more convenient as well as they know in advance when the orientation sessions are held. Staff continue to work on recruiting new work experience sites to provide additional opportunities for youth participants. There are two new work experience employers currently in process, Pratt Industries and Criss Optical.

The second round of Roadtrip Nation (RTN) group classes with CPRF was just completed; five participants participated. The curriculum and classes are greatly benefiting our participants and providing motivation to follow through on employment and work experiences. RTN lesson plans continue to encouraged especially the employer interview piece where the young person videos and interviews an employer about career topics and uploads them to the RTN website for viewing by others. Staff and board are working with employers to put together a list of employers that will agree to do interviews in order to have a list of readily available interviewees based on career choices as the need arises. A survey will be sent to board members and employers to gather information for this list.

Keith Lawing provided an update on the statewide Work-Based Learning (WBL) program. Second quarter numbers were presented that included data from each workforce area across the state. The report includes tracking students by career pathway in high school, type of activities participants engaged in, number of referrals into WIOA Youth program and a breakdown of school districts, which has grown statewide. Funding for the work-based intermediaries remains in the Kansas Department of Commerce budget anticipate to be funded by legislature this year.

Report was received and filed.

3. **2024 Youth Employment Project (YEP) Update**

An update was provided on activities and goals for 2024. Lawing reviewed the 2024 YEP goals and year to date measures, which are currently in line. Messaging and outreach about the program continues to be made in communities to employers with the hope of creating more summer internship opportunities for young people. An “Easy as Pie” campaign has been rolled out to assist employers in developing internships or providing other opportunities that contribute to youth employment that can be tailored to student interest and employer needs. A webinar and an in-person meeting have been scheduled for employers to attend to learn about best practices for engaging young adults. A survey has been developed for interested employers to complete so that staff can follow up and offer services making it as easy for the employer as possible to participate. Committee members are encouraged to share and distribute this information to their colleagues, partners and network to promote work experience activities in the community. Chelsea Daniel, Work Experience Coordinator, provided information about some upcoming workshops she and her staff have scheduled in various communities. Career Camp HYPE’s are being scheduled;

outreach is being made to employers to sponsor as in previous years and virtual reality training equipment are included in the camps this year. A video clip was shown from the vendor, Transfr's website. The equipment allows students to experience virtual hands on experiences in many different types of careers. WA staff have held community impact meetings in Butler, Cowley and Sumner counties to expand the internship model outside of the Wichita area. The have also been participating in community events (Chamber Chair lunch, monthly WIBA lunch, Wichita Business Journal round table), individual employer outreach and presentations to government officials to promote youth employment.

Report was received and filed.

4. **Partner Updates**

- WA is working with Wichita Public Schools on their 3rd annual career fair on April 16th. Approximately one-third of graduating students do not plan to attend college and go directly into the workforce. The event works to align these students with full-time entry level work opportunities.
- Textron has closed applications for their summer internships; they received 399 applications for 156 internships. Textron is partnering with WA YEP staff to work with applicants that do not receive an internship learn about other work experience opportunities that are available.
- For Butler Community College, the Andover campus hosted Leadership U hands on exposure to different programs. On March 6th, the Andover campus. Will host a career fair.
- WSU Tech is promoting their national signing day scholarships for students that are interested in career and technical education. Seniors can apply for \$1,000 with no GPA requirement. Beginning March 4th, they are also promoting academy enrollments for current high school juniors and seniors for next year.

5. **Consent Agenda**

Approval of the minutes from the December 19, 2023 meeting, Program Year 2023 (PY23) budget and WIOA Youth Program performance reports for PY23 were presented to the Committee for review and/or approval.

Laura Barker (Alana McNary) moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion was adopted.

6. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 PM.

Attendees:

LWDB Youth Employment Committee Members

Rod Blackburn, Partners in Education, Chair
Laura Barker, Wichita Public Schools
Aletta Chaney-Profit, Butler Community College
Cody Griffin, WSU Tech
Debbie Kennedy, Wichita Children's Home
Alana McNary, Professional Engineering
Consultants

Staff/Guests

Auston Cooley
Chelsea Daniel
Amanda Hill
Denise Houston
Keith Lawing
Shirley Lindhorst
Chad Pettera
KC Schumacher
Deb Weve, Job Corps
Stacia Kaylor, Textron Aviation