

# WORKFORCE CENTERS

of South Central Kansas

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Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)

Youth Employment Committee Meeting Notes

March 15, 2022 – 11:30 AM

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

The LWDB Youth Employment Committee assembled via ZOOM. Co-Chair Amy Williams welcomed Committee members and called the meeting to order. As this recurring meeting occurred during spring break for many school districts in the region, staff noted that committee meeting dates for 2023 would account for this event when scheduling next year's meetings. Aliex Kofoed, WA Work Experience Coordinator who manages the Youth Employment Project (YEP) is leaving to take another position. WA staff, Chelsea Daniels, will replace Aliex and has had the opportunity to train with Aliex over the last several weeks.

### 2. Helping Youth Prepare for Employment (HYPE) 2022 Update

The goals for the Youth Employment Project and HYPE were finalized at the last committee meeting in January. Staff provided an update and overview on the activities that have occurred since then and how results are comparing with those goals and a data report was shared with committee members.

- The program has a goal of 1,000 in terms of workshop participation; however, interest in workshop participation has been a challenge. Along with general employment trends around the country due to the pandemic and other factors, youth are not as interested in attending structured activities during their spring break; therefore, workshops planned for that week are being rescheduled for the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>. Staff had a good outcome during this timeframe last year.
- Interest and subscription for the YEP newsletter has increased greatly and is making more people aware of services, programs and employment opportunities. [Youth Employment Project Newsletter March 2022.](#)
- The Wichita Wind Surge had a Job Fair that was not well attended; more promotion was needed. They did not work with the WA on the fair; they plan to schedule another one and work with staff to promote and illustrate the value of obtaining summer employment.
- USD 259 will hold a senior career expo and staff will be working with WSU Haysville on their upcoming job fair.
- Rod Blackburn announced that Intrust Bank is sponsoring a CTE certificate awards night for El Dorado High School in April to recognize those earning certifications much like high school and college graduates are recognized for their diplomas. He invited WA staff to attend and award WorkReady certificates to participants at that event. He also challenged staff to get El Dorado more involved in the YEP/HYPE program and accelerate participation in that area.
- Aviation Manufacturing Interview Day is scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup> and a large turnout is expected. Four companies are participating and it is hoped that over 150 young people will be hired.
- Other events are planned, which should add to the project participation numbers and get closer to meeting this year's goals. The Camp HYPEs previously reviewed at past meetings should drive additional traffic.
- Bank of America has once again pledged funding for YEP/HYPE and is providing \$45,000 this year. A formal press release will be distributed soon as well as promoted on social media.

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- Some of the Camp HYPE's were not well attended last year. Staff are actively recruiting participants. Staff will be reaching out to various locations in the region such as the Urban League to host these camps.
- McConnell Air Force Base is participating in Camp HYPE this year and is scheduling two camps. The camps will promote careers in the Air Force and will provide tours of facilities.
- Committee members are encouraged to continue to provide ideas and suggestions to staff during and outside of meetings.

**Next Steps**

Staff will provide a summary of this meeting and continue to update committee members on activities before the next meeting in July.

**Attendees:**

*LWDB Youth Employment Committee*

*Members*

Rod Blackburn, Partners in Education  
Angela Perez, Urban League  
Aletra Chaney-Profit, Butler Community  
College  
Debbie Kennedy, Wichita Children's Home  
Dr. Dennis Rittle, Cowley College  
Amy Williams, Spirit AeroSystems

*Staff/Guests*

Stacy Cotten  
Chelsea Daniel  
Amanda Duncan  
Aliex Kofoed  
Keith Lawing  
Shirley Lindhorst  
Justin Albert, Spirit AeroSystems