

# **WORKFORCE CENTERS**

of South Central Kansas

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### **Workforce Alliance (WA) Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) Youth Employment Committee Meeting Minutes August 15, 2023 – 11:30 AM**

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

The LWDB Youth Employment Committee assembled via ZOOM. Co-Chair Amy Williams called the meeting to order and asked for self-introductions. Caitlyn Gregory was introduced as Michele Gifford's replacement for Textron Aviation's position on the Committee.

#### **2. Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Update and Performance Report for Youth Program**

Performance, enrollment data and success stories for the WIOA Youth Program were presented. Performance reporting for Program Year 2022 (PY22) began on July 1, 2022 and ended on June 30, 2023; reporting is not final until the end of August. The WIOA Youth program is exceeding all of the goals for all five of their performance measures (Placement in Employment, Education, or Training 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, Placement in Employment, Education, or Training 4th Quarter, Credential Rate, Measurable Skills Gain, and Median Earnings). Statewide, three of the goals are being exceeded and two, Credential Attainment and Measurable Skills Gain, are being met.

Youth staff and leadership have been focusing on outreach activities targeting potential participants to increase enrollments and also to increase the number of employers willing to provide work experience opportunities. WIOA Youth staff have worked with the WA's communications department to update all the WIOA Youth flyers and the WIOA Youth page on the website to make those materials more engaging. Outreach activities have resulted in a significant increase in enrollments. In PY22, 114 customers were enrolled in the program, an increase of 40 participants from the previous program year. Williams asked if a goal had been set for the number of participants enrolled. Staff were given the goal of 150 a year. New work experience sites continue to be developed. Some program success stories were shared with Committee members. Staff clarified for members that the WIOA Youth Program is for young adults 16 to 24 years of age. WIOA legislation concentrates on out of school participants 18 to 24 years of age (opportunity youth). The WIOA Adult Program participants are 18 years of age and older so there is overlap of the two programs. Staff have the flexibility to determine which program best meets the needs of a particular customer.

*Report was received and filed.*

#### **3. Work-Based Learning (WBL) Project Update**

A report on WBL outcomes from the project to date was provided for all Local Areas in the State of Kansas. The WBL project just completed its third year; this was the first year that the program received direct funding from the State of Kansas budget. The program has expanded from six schools district the first year to now 160 in the state and from 9,300 student engagements to 22,000. More than 5,000 students in 27 high schools were served in Local Area IV (LAIV). The report included data on student participation and the schools, school districts and businesses engaged in WBL activities statewide. Also reported are the types of engagement such as job fairs, classroom encounters, career mentoring, job shadowing, mock interviews, facility tours, internships and pre-apprenticeships. The program has been very successful and staff hope to increase employer engagements and increase the quality of work experiences that can be tied to students' academic interests so that can translate into better transitions to post-secondary education or to the job market. One aspect of WBL activities is the increased ability to identify and refer participants to the WIOA Youth program.

*Report was received and filed.*

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**4. 2023 Youth Employment Project (YEP) and Camp HYPE Update**

Helping Youth Prepare for Employment (HYPE) career camps are completed for the summer. More camps were offered this year and there was significantly higher participation than last year with 20 to 25 participants per camp. Additional students were placed in paid and unpaid internships and the number of employers directly hiring youth also increased. In previous years, the WA subsidized a number of placements, which are now totally unsubsidized. Final numbers on the YEP program will not be available until late September or early October. Duncan shared a slide presentation with some data, activities and photos from the Camp HYPEs. The camps included trade skills, Textron Aviation, healthcare, Spirit AeroSystems, technology, financial services and public safety with the Wichita Crime Commission. A McConnell Air Force Base camp was also added this year for youth of military connected individuals to attend. Participation for the camps has increased significantly from previous years. Currently, there is one camp per week for eight weeks and staff are exploring the idea of running more than one camp in different locations concurrently in the future. These programs are particularly important for communities as a way to decrease youth crime and violence. Additional employers and partners to participate in the program are needed.

*Report was received and filed.*

**5. Roadtrip Nation (RTN) – Paths Across Kansas**

Roadtrip Nation films area youth participating in career exploration activities. The two part documentary filmed in South Central Kansas will premier nationally on PBS on September 25<sup>th</sup> and October 5<sup>th</sup>. The official trailer, [Roadtrip Nation "Paths Across Kansas" Trailer](#), was shown to Committee members. Staff are planning a watch party on September 28<sup>th</sup> at Exploration Place and will be inviting funders of the project (USD 259, WSU, WSU Tech, Dept of Commerce, Spirit AeroSystems and Textron Aviation), partners, roadtrippers and individuals that were interviewed; with the majority of invitees being teachers. Watch party kits are being developed for staff to use when showing the film in the schools so that afterwards they can discuss and promote the use of the RTN Community Hub of career exploration tools. There will be a need for organizations to provide staff to be interviewed by young people, so that they can make career exploration videos to upload to the hub. The documentary, videos and tools can also be shared and used by anyone in the community such as (Lead for Kansas, Greater Wichita Partnership's Choose Wichita, etc.) that work to retain and attract talent to the region.

*Report was received and filed.*

**6. Consent Agenda**

Minutes from the June 20, 2023 meeting and an update on the current Program Year 2023 budget update was presented to the Committee for review and/or approval.

*Amy Williams (Caitlyn Gregory) moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion was adopted.*

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 PM.

**Attendees:**

LWDB Youth Employment Committee Members

Amy Williams, Spirit AeroSystems, Co-Chair  
Aletra Chaney-Profit, Butler Community College  
Jennifer Avery for Debbie Kennedy, Wichita  
Children's Home  
Alana McNary, Prof. Engineering Consultants  
Mim McKenzie, YMCA

Staff/Guests

Amanda Duncan  
Denise Houston  
Keith Lawing  
Shirley Lindhorst  
KC Schumacher  
Chad Pettera  
Jennifer Baysinger, Sen. Roger Marshall's Office  
Deb Weve, Job Corps

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