

WORKFORCE CENTERS

of South Central Kansas

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Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2019

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Gabe Schlickau welcomed Board members, asked for self-introductions and the meeting was called to order.

2. **Public Comment**

No new public comment requests were received.

3. **Congressman Ron Estes Visit**

U.S. Congressman Ron Estes addressed the Board and entertained questions. In relation to workforce issues he expressed the fact that workforce issues are not just about the number of jobs or salary, but matching education and skill sets to jobs that are in demand. Congressman Estes is on the House Ways and Means Committee. He provided an update on policy issues currently being addressed by Congress.

In regard to trade, the U.S is reliant on open markets; tariffs are not productive and weaken the economy. The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) trade agreement is moving forward, which improves upon the current NAFTA agreement and promotes manufacturing and protects intellectual property. He is among the congressional leaders working on approving this agreement this summer. He noted the USMCA could have a big impact on industries in the 4th District like manufacturing and agriculture. The administration will focus next on China, Japan and Pacific nations,

In regard to taxes and economic growth, the goal is for a permanent, stable tax code.

Questions:

- Keith Lawing asked about worker enhancements and Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program under the USMCA. Rep. Estes said he would look into that issue.
- A question was raised about forgiveness of student loans. Student loans are the largest amount of debt paid to the government. Forgiving the loans will add to the U.S. debt. Rep. Estes indicated that it would be difficult to compare student situations and might be unfair to those students who have a greater need to be treated the same as those that do not have that same level of need.
- Kathy Jewett asked about the full funding and local control of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) allocations. Kansas Local Areas are receiving less funding each year. Because of the current formulas Kansas receives less funds for employment and training. Even though there is currently a period of low unemployment, the need for allocations is still great in order to maintain a skilled workforce and meet employers' demands.

4. **American Workforce Policy Advisory Board**

LWDB Member Dr. Sheree Utash, WSU Tech President has been appointed to the American Workforce Policy Advisory Board and provided an overview on the mission and goals of the advisory board and its current activities. The Advisory Board works directly with the National Council for the American Worker to help design and implement strategies, campaigns and training programs that can be used to tackle labor issues on a national level and help employers meet their changing workforce needs. Dr. Utash asked Board members to provide thoughts and ideas that they would like the Advisory Board to consider by accessing the "Submit Feedback" section of the Advisory Board page of the WSU Tech website. The link to the Advisory Board page can be accessed at: <https://wsutech.edu/americanworkforce/>.

Report was received and filed.

5. **National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Forum**

NAWB hosts an annual Forum to gather the leading voices in the workforce community for three days of dialogue, learning and relationship building. LWDB members Gabe Schlickau, Jennifer Hughes, Kathy Jewett and Michele Gifford attended the Forum in Washington D.C. in March and provided an overview of their experiences at the event. All agreed that the Keynote Speaker, Nick Pinchuck of Snap-On was the highlight of the Forum speaking about the dignity of work. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A34-YLzKZxg>. LWDB member Kathy Jewett serves on the NAWB Board of Directors and reported that attendance was up by participants and exhibitors and that there were fewer general sessions and more specialized workshops and programs/sessions. Jennifer Hughes spoke to the opportunity of networking with other LWDBs and learning about apprenticeship opportunities. She and Michele attended the Leadership Academy designed for LWDB member education. Gabe Schlickau attended interesting sessions on transitioning military and workforce in rural areas. Gabe, Kathy and Jennifer feel like they are extremely well-informed on workforce issues and can communicate well with elected officials in discussions related to those issues. LWDB members interested in attending NAWB in the future should contact Keith Lawing.

The NAWB Board will hold their 3rd quarter meeting in Wichita. Tours of the Wichita Workforce Center, National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR) and National Center for Aviation Training (NCAT) are planned. More information will be shared with the LWDB as it becomes available.

Report was received and filed.

6. **Help Youth Prepare for Employment (HYPE) and Youth Employment Project (YEP) Update**

Help Youth Prepare for Employment (HYPE) is an umbrella youth employment network that includes core partners, Workforce Alliance (WA), City of Wichita, YMCA and USD 259. Each of the HYPE partners will continue to operate their individual and unique programs. HYPE held a Manufacturing Job Fair on April 13. There were four participating companies: Spirit Aerosystems, Textron Aviation, Cox Machine and XLT Ovens. Over 130 youth attended the event. Spirit hired 59 youth and Textron is also expected to hire a large number of young people. An additional hiring event was held on April 19 and another is scheduled for May 30. There is still a need for more employers to help reach the goal of 1,000 job placements for 2019. In order to reach out to more small businesses in the area, the WA provided a \$7,500 incentive grant through the Wichita Independent Business Association (WIBA) to support subsidizing some of the wages and placement costs. The WA will be hosting two interns from Bank of America for seven weeks this summer.

Take action to increase employer partners.

7. **Consent Agenda and Committee Reports**

January 23, 2019 meeting minutes, budget report, office copier lease Request for Proposals (RFPs), Kansas Department of Commerce Monitoring Report/revised LWDB Committee Member Conflict of Interest forms, Workforce Alliance A-133 audit report, LWDB committee meeting reports, One-Stop Operator report, Workforce Center operations report and Performance Reports were distributed to the Committee for review. The WA released an RFP for office copiers and has requested that the LWDB authorize the President and CEO to enter into a new office copier lease through Digital Office Systems. LWDB Conflict of Interest forms have been revised and LWDB members and committee members were asked to sign the revised forms.

Dr. Sherry Utash (Kathy Jewett) moved to approve the recommendations as presented in the consent agenda. Motion Adopted.

8. **Additional Topics/Community Updates**

The WA was awarded the United Way's Spirit of Caring Award for 2018; this is the third time in the last four years that the WA has been chosen to receive this award.

Adjourn (11:00)

Present LWDB Members

Jennifer Anderson
Rod Blackburn
Andrew Chance
Kerri Falletti
Laura Hands
Robyn Heinz
Jennifer Hughes
Kathy Jewett
Patrick Jonas
Dr. Kimberly Krull
B.J. Moore
Tony Naylor
Gary Plummer
Erica Ramos
Gabe Schlickau
Jeff Townsend
Dr. Sherry Utash
John Weber

Guests & Staff

Peter Bodyk
Tisha Cannizzo
Amanda Duncan
Representative Ron Estes
Tina Grillot
Keith Lawing
Shirley Lindhorst
Mayor Jeff Longwell
Debbie Luper, Rep. Ron Estes Staff
George Marko
Kim Moore
Cassidy Nolan
Chad Pettera
Laura Rainwater
Press Secretary Roman Rodriguez, Rep. Ron Estes Staff
Dave Unruh, LWDB Community Impact Committee
John Waltner, LWDB Community Impact Committee
Amy Williams, LWDB Community Impact Committee