

# MINUTES

## Arkansas Apprenticeship Coordination Steering Committee

October 5, 2023

### Meeting Commence

Chairman Kelley Sharp called the meeting to order at 12:30 CST.

### Roll Call

#### **Present**

Heath Harris

Bill Roachell

Kelley Sharp

David Stephens

Mary Beth Hatch

Dr. Bill Allison

Dr. Zach Harber (Non-Voting Member)

#### **Absent**

Ed Carrington

Tracy Chambers (Non-Voting Member)

### Guests in Attendance

Cynthia McLain – US Department of Labor

Patricia Sanderson – Five Rivers Plumbing  
Apprenticeships

Ric Mayhan – AR Department of Health

Crystal Cornell – Little Rock Electrical JATC

Kimberly Moore – Associated Builders and  
Contractors

Sheri Overstreet – Arkansas College of Electricity

Derrick Daniels – Office of Skills Development

Karen Breashears – National Apprenticeship  
Training Foundation

### Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Heath Harris to approve the minutes from the September 7, 2023. All present voted in favor and the motion passed.

### US Department of Labor Apprenticeship Report

Cynthia McLain reported the following data. This data includes changes from previous month's report and provides a snapshot of state of Apprenticeship programs in Arkansas.

	<b>Change (+/-)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% of change</b>
Active Programs	-	151	-
New Apprentices	+357	3,448	11.5%
Total Apprentices	+84	8,470	1%
Suspended Apprentices	-4	7	36.4%
Cancelled Apprentices	+193	1702	12.8%
Completed Apprentices	+49	847	6.14%
Participating Employers	+13	988	1.33%

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## TA Fund Report

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Derrick Daniels reported \$115,937.41 has been paid out as of September 27, 2023. He reported the new TA balance is \$1,648,042.59.

Please see attachment

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## CT Fund Report

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Derrick Daniels reported \$120,385.81 has been paid out to date. \$1,240.09 has been paid towards outreach and education and \$119,145.72 has been paid out for curriculum. He reported a current CT balance of \$679,614.91 remaining with \$58,759.91 available for outreach and education, \$520,854.28 available for curriculum, \$60,000 available for equipment, and \$40,000 available for instructor training.

Derrick also reported a large amount of CT applications currently in review that will reduce the CT funds dramatically. He attributed this to programs being more proactive in completing the necessary paperwork and making program purchases early in the fiscal year.

Derrick also reported he does not see a lot of completions in programs such as HVAC, Industrial Electrician, Iron Worker, Carpenter, and Pipefitter programs. However, he reported the following apprentices were released for journeymen exams:

25 Electrical Apprentices

11 Plumbing Apprentices

Chairman Kelley Sharp requested to have a column added to this report illustrating the starting balance of each fund.

Please see attachment

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## Program Visits

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Derrick Daniels reported Don Bellcock was conducting a program review of Shine Solar and had a review scheduled for a program in Northwest Arkansas. Once completed, Don will rejoin and report findings at the next meeting, if available.

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## Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Open Discussion

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Derrick Daniels wanted to make the committee aware of the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship. He asked Bill Allison to provide more context to the committee. Bill explained the process to have programs added to the approved program list and a brief overview of how NPC manages this scholarship for their apprentices.

Derrick informed the committee that he will be meeting scheduled on October 16th to discuss this scholarship and if there is an opportunity to expand the eligible recipients to apprenticeship programs that are not sponsored by an institution of higher education.

Zach Harber provided additional details on how this scholarship can be used by an apprentice to cover the cost of multiple years of their apprenticeship program. He also made the committee aware of the requirement to be a high school completer to be eligible for this scholarship. He provided an example where a student was unable to provide evidence of high school completion and it was problematic for that student. Zach brought

this to the attention of the committee so each member understood the importance of record retention when applying for this scholarship.

Heath Harris asked for clarification that this scholarship was only eligible for apprentices attending a program sponsored by a community college or university. Zach Harber confirmed this and Bill Allison provided additional comment that the meeting set up by Derrick Daniels was encouraging and made the best sense for scholarship expansion. He explained that this scholarship is underutilized and that apprenticeship programs seem to be the best fit for expansion.

Heath Harris explained that he has had apprentices' parents ask about scholarships and hopes that the expansion could be approved. Kelley Sharp agreed that this expansion would be great to offset employer costs and asked to be kept informed of the results of the upcoming meeting.

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## TA Requests

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A motion was made by Bill Roachell and seconded by Heath Harris to approve the recommended number of instructors as presented by OSD with the exception of 17 instructors recommended for Associated Builders & Contractors of Arkansas and 9 instructors recommended for Jonesboro Area Plumbing. Motion passed.

A motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Mary Beth Hatch to approve 17 instructors recommended for Associated Builders & Contractors of Arkansas and 9 instructors recommended for Jonesboro Area Plumbing. Motion passed.

Total instructors approved to fund: 280

A motion was made by Bill Roachell and seconded by Mary Beth Hatch to recommend the instructor hourly rate to be \$40 per hour. Motion passed.

Please see attachments.

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## CT Requests

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CT-24-10: Motion was made by Heath Harris and seconded by Bill Allison to approve the recommended amount of \$719.98. Motion passed.

CT-24-11: Motion was made by Bill Roachell and seconded by Bill Allison to approve the recommended amount of \$429.89. Motion passed.

CT-24-12: Motion was made by Bill Allison and seconded by Bill Roachell to approve the recommended amount of \$539.98. Motion passed.

CT-24-13: Motion was made by Bill Roachell and seconded by David Stephens to approve the recommended amount of \$897.24. Motion passed.

CT-24-14: Motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Heath Harris to approve the recommended amount of \$3,407.54. Motion passed.

CT-24-15: Motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Bill Roachell to approve the recommended amount of \$4,575.68. Motion passed.

CT-24-16: Motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Bill Allison to approve the recommended amount of \$1,935.78. Motion passed.

CT-24-17: Motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Heath Harris to approve the recommended amount of \$93,228.63. Motion passed.

CT-24-18: Motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Heath Harris to approve the recommended amount of \$1,079.28. Motion passed.

CT-24-19: Motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Bill Roachell to approve the recommended amount of \$17,407.20. Heath Harris abstained. Motion passed.

CT-24-20: Motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Heath Harris to approve the recommended amount of \$5,299.35. Motion passed.

CT-24-21: Motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Bill Allison to approve the recommended amount of \$6,253.94. Bill Roachell abstained. Motion passed.

CT-24-22: Motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Harris to approve the recommended amount of \$1,824.90. Bill Roachell abstained. Motion passed.

CT-24-23: Motion was made by Heath Harris and seconded by David Stephens to approve the recommended amount of \$1,008.20. Bill Roachell abstained. Motion passed.

CT-24-24: Motion was made by Bill Allison and seconded by Bill Roachell to approve the recommended amount of \$1,739.98. David Stephens abstained. Motion passed.

CT-24-25: Motion was made by Heath Harris and seconded by David Stephens to approve the recommended amount of \$3,658.32. Motion passed.

CT-24-26: Motion was made by Bill Allison and seconded by Bill Roachell to approve the recommended amount of \$1,678.92. Motion passed.

CT-24-27: Motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Heath Harris to approve the recommended amount of \$43,033.50. Motion passed.

CT-24-28: Motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Bill Roachell to approve the recommended amount of \$89,337.77. Motion passed.

CT-24-29: Motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Bill Allison to approve the recommended amount of \$1,189.83. Motion passed.

CT-24-30: Motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Heath Harris to approve the recommended amount of \$1,219.46. Motion passed.

CT-24-31: Motion was made by Heath Harris and seconded by David Stephens to approve the recommended amount of \$553.38. Motion passed.

CT-24-32: Derrick provided context to this application due to the recommended amount being lower than the requested amount. The difference was due to the number of code books being requested for 2nd year apprentices. The number requested was 280, however, the apprentice roster reflected 232 2nd year apprentices. Derrick then conducted a review of the class roster and approved a request for all apprentices who had completed at least 130 hours but no more than 216 hours of related instruction.

Motion was made by David Stephens and seconded by Bill Roachell to approve the recommended amount of \$80,420.31. Motion passed.

Chairman Kelley Sharp summarized the amount awarded to date as \$361,439.06.

Please see attachments.

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Open Discussion

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Chairmen Kelley Sharpe asked to have the topic of how we identify 2nd year apprentices to be added in the funding guidelines. He then opened up the discussion to anyone within the meeting.

Mrs. Cynthia McLain reminded everyone that National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) is November 13-19, 2023. She encouraged everyone to recognize and “lift up” their apprentices that week and to report those activities on the NAW website. She reminded everyone of the resources available on the NAW website to be used during this week of recognition.

Chairmen Kelley Sharp asked for clarification on a comment in the comment section by Karen Brashears referencing the Workforce Challenge Scholarship. She wanted to see if there were college admissions and entrance requirements for apprentices to apply for this scholarship.

Zach Harber provided clarification that this scholarship is one of the only scholarships in the country that is eligible for non-credit programs. He also stated that each college will have different application requirements but the state does not require traditional academic entrance requirements.

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### Next Meeting

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The minutes from this meeting will be submitted by Dr. Bill Allison prior to the next meeting to be held on November 2, 2023 at 12:30pm.

A motion was made to adjourn. Motion passed.