

Career Education and Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: October 8, 2024

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Department of Commerce, with some members attending via Zoom

Board Members in attendance:

Voting Members

Kevin Tipton, Chairman
Danny Games, Vice-Chairman
Jeff Marcussen
Kris Carson
Cat Hamilton
Dr. Andrea Henderson
Butch Rice
Len Pitcock

Ex-Officio Members

Secretary Hugh McDonald
Dr. Ken Warden
Mitch Rouse (for Kristi Putnum)
Esperanza Massana-Crane
Secretary Jacob Oliva
Ross White
Mike Rogers
Stephanie Isaacs
Charisse Childers

Members absent:

Voting Members

Ex-Officio Members

Clint O'Neal
Mike Hernandez
Cody Waits

Guests

Senator Jane English
Derrick Daniels
Kyla Waters

Call to Order: Chairman Kevin Tipton called the October 2024 meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Tipton requested that members review the minutes from the previous meeting. Len Pitcock made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Marcussen. The minutes were approved.

Apprenticeship: Derrick Daniels, Director of the Arkansas Office of Apprenticeship, presented a candidate for appointment for the Electrical Committee. Amy Martindale has been nominated by the Committee. Danny Games made a motion to approve the Committee's nomination and Cat Hamilton seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Sec. Oliva Report on K-12 Education. Secretary Oliva made a presentation regarding about the LEARNS initiative progress in the past year. In high school educational attainment, Arkansas ranks 40th out of 50 states. Post secondary attainment is ranked 47th. His Department is working to align strategies to education students, and teachers, and learning materials to best practices and putting foundational elements in place to order to see measurable results. Eighteen pathways have been identified and student pathways will be aligned to them. Ross White said that there are 128 career coaches around the state on high school campuses. They are required have to have 4 encounters with every student enrolled each year. Danny Games asked if LEARNS had engagement with local or regional employers. Sec. Oliva has worked with Mike Rogers and others to create the 18 pathways. If an employer doesn't see their needs addressed through those listed, they would with them to meet their needs. Butch Rice asked the Sec. Oliva why concerns that the issue of class sizes has not been discussed. However, Sec. Oliva had already left the meeting. Chairman Tipton said he would relay the question to Sec. Oliva for further discussion.

Agenda Item 4- Approval of Secondary Area Technical Center tiered funding. Director Issacs presented information regarding tiered funding recommendations for the Secondary Area Technical Centers. Every region is served by a SATC they are required to have 3 CTE programs. The funding is administered by OSD by this is public school funding. It is in Ross's appropriation budget. There are 31 centers and each of those have satellites. 6ncenters are on high schools' campuses. Most are not tied to a post-secondary credit. Director Isaacs anticipates a budget shortfall. The board's duty is to review the budget and set the tiers. Enrollment is tied to the budgets. Lesia Edwards, with OSD, verifies each enrollment, approves them, and send to ADE for payment. Each tier is broken down into classes. Tier 1 is high need high skill and high wage. They are also more costly. It is \$8,000 in FTE for Tier 1. Isaacs proposed a onetime reduced rate for the spring for tiers 1-3. Ross recommends the development of a committee of stakeholders to develop a few funding proposals moving forward. Dr. Warden commented that it's a good problem to have increasing enrollment in these tier 1 programs. Mike Rogers asked Dr. Warden if scholarships were available. Len Pitock made a motion to approve the proposed rates and take up AEDs proposal of a study for the Fall 2025 budget. Danny Games seconded the motion. Dr. Henderson wanted to recognize the difficulty of the colleges to absorb the cuts. Isaacs said she foresaw the reduction needed and let the centers know some time ago about the possibility there may be costs. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 5 – Presentation on Broadband Workforce Investment. Kyla Waters, Director for the Center of Workforce for Arkansas Community Colleges, made a presentation on investments in broadband workforce. Training began in the spring of 2023. OSD has invested \$3.01M to date. Training is free to the students. A significant portion of investment has been made in training equipment. Arkansas Fiber Academy Instruction is being conducted through 3 different colleges in the state. Student who graduate have the climbing equipment and other gear they will need to work in the industry. Many skills the

students receive are transferrable to other industries. There is a 5th program coming online at Cossatot.

Director's Report on the Office of Skills Development. Director Isaacs gave a report on activities of the Office of Skills Development. Issacs discussed the upcoming annual report of awarded grants with workforce training. OSD is anticipating to award \$10M to companies. Apprenticeships has increased by 800 in the traditional space in the past two years and funding has been increased to new non-traditional apprenticeship. Mike Rogers will give a HIRED grant report in December. AR Health Care Association is preparing to present on a program designed to increase LPNs in the workforce. Director Isaacs proposed the next meeting be held at the Saline County Career Technical Campus in Benton.

Len Pitock asked if proposed Issue 1 would impact workforce development efforts. Issacs said it would not impact Office of Skills Development funds.

Adjournment: With no further business, Chairman Tipton called for a motion to adjourn. Mike Rogers made the motion to adjourn and Len Pitock seconded. The motion was approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:06 PM.

Next Meeting: December 10, 2024, 10am, Saline County Technical Center