

MINUTES – MEETING OF THE
CAREER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (CEWDB)

December 14, 2021
11:30 AM

The Career Education and Workforce Development Board (CEWDB) was called to order by Chairman Gina Radke at 11:36 AM. The meeting was held at the Arkansas Department of Commerce and CEWDB Board members were given the option to either attend in-person, or virtually. The board meeting was also broadcast on PBS.

A record of member attendance is as follows:

PRESENT (In-Person)

Ms. Gina Radke (Chair)
Mr. Michael Garner
Mr. Hugh McDonald
Mr. Mike Rogers

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members (In-Person)

Mr. Cody Waits, Ex-Officio Secretary
Dr. Charisse Childers
Dr. Andrea Henderson (Ms. Kyla Waters)
Dr. Maria Markham
Ms. Esperanza Massana Dr.
Ivy Pfeffer
Mr. Ross White

PRESENT (Virtually)

Mr. Kenneth Calhoun
Ms. Stacy Gunderman

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members (Virtually)

Mr. Solomon Graves (Ms. Tracy Dowell)

ABSENT

Mr. Scott Copas
Mr. Stephen Percival
Dr. Jeff Standridge
Dr. Keith Vire

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members

Dr. Mike Hernandez
Ms. Cindy Gillespie (Mr. Larry Crutchfield)
Mr. Johnny Key
Mr. J.D. Lowery

Guests

Senator Jane English

ACTION ITEM 1- Minutes from October 12, 2021

Chairman Gina Radke asked for questions/comments from the board, and upon hearing none, asked for a motion to accept the minutes.

On a motion made by Hugh McDonald and second by Mike Rogers the Career Education and Workforce Development Board (CEWDB) unanimously approved the minutes from October 12, 2021.

ACTION ITEM 2 – Nomination and Election of New Chairperson

Chairman Radke explained that it was time to nominate and elect a new chairperson and vice-chair. She thanked everyone and commended the Board for a job well done, particularly considering the challenges of the past year. Chairman Radke also pointed out that looking back, she was happy to see that some of the concerns that had arisen surrounding changes the Board had recommended did not come to fruition, and instead, have had a positive impact on programs and the career centers.

On a motion made by Mike Rogers, and seconded by Michael Garner, the Career Education and Workforce Development Board (CEWDB) approved the nomination of Kenneth Calhoun as the new chairperson.

Mr. Calhoun accepted the nomination and thanked the Board and Chairman Radke. Following Mr. Calhoun's election, a motion was then made to elect a vice-chair.

On a motion made by Hugh McDonald, and seconded by Michael Garner, the Career Education and Workforce Development Board (CEWDB) approved the nomination of Stacy Gunderman as the new Vice-Chair.

Ms. Gunderman accepted the nomination and thanked the Board and Chairman Radke.

INFORMATION ITEM 3 – Secondary Center Spend Down Plans

Mr. Cody Waits reminded the Board that at the request of Board Member Scott Copas, the Secondary Career Centers were asked to explain how they plan on spending down their carry-over funds. The career centers listed below were invited to make a presentation to the board, each providing a copy of their presentations for review. Upon the conclusion of each presentation, the career center staff were available to answer questions and provide additional info.

- Arkansas Tech University Career Center
 - Ozark Chancellor Bruce Sikes and Arkansas Tech University Career Center (ATCC) Director Pat Edmunds began by giving a brief history of the career center, along with an overview of their programs.
 - Currently, ATCC serves 21 high schools, which includes 800 enrollees, 4 campuses 9 programs of study and over 300 industry credentials earned each year.
 - In addition to a new apprenticeship program with Tyson that will begin in January, ATUCC has also partnered with other employers in the area, such as Rockline Industries, ABB Baldor, and Cogswell Motors.
 - With a carryover beginning balance of \$900,797 as of July 1, 2021, ATCC plans to do the following:
 - Retain funds for use in a matching grant effort for purchase/set-up of new equipment and furnishings in a new location.
 - ATUCC then plans to spend down to the maximum of 20% for the purchase of equipment/furnishings to update programs, while closing programs that are unpopulated. A list of those equipment expenditures were also included.
 - The Board asked which of their programs have they chosen to close, and some of those included AG, Drafting and Engineering. Chancellor Sikes pointed out that some of those closures were the direct result of the duplication of that curriculum in other programs already being offered.
- Conway Area Career Center
 - Center Director Donna Lyon provided the Board with a copy of her 2021-2022 Budget and began her presentation by giving an overview of some of the key figures. For example, with \$811,292.18 set aside for Fall, 2021, \$730,162.96 for Spring, 2022 and

- an accumulated carryover of \$419,578.02, the total monies for 2021-2022 would total \$1,961,033.16.
- Accounting for the 80% of funds that must be spent, salaries/benefits, normal operating costs, and the amount that has already been spent by 11/30/21, a total of \$93,353.15 is left to spend in the Spring.
 - Director Lyon asked her staff to provide a list of equipment needs and instructional materials they would need for the following programs of study: Auto Collision, Construction, CS: Networking, Culinary Arts, Health Science and Welding.
 - A question arose as to why the Conway Area Career Center had put in a request to order chrome books, as well as textbooks and Director Lyon pointed out that the chrome books were needed in order for the students to not only access the NCCER curriculum this year, which was available online, but to also be able to take their certification exams in Construction.
 - Another question arose centered around the CNC milling machine for the automotive group, and in particular, what that piece of equipment looked like, and whether or not there was any additional info that could be provided. Director Lyon looked up that information and explained that the piece of equipment in question was a carbide 3D desktop CNC milling machine that is used to cut out small automotive parts and to teach CNC programming. The estimated cost was \$3500 dollars.
- Metropolitan Career and Technical Center
 - Metropolitan Director Shameka Montgomery and Career Ed Specialist Lisa Huff were there to present to the Board on behalf of the Metropolitan Career and Technical Center, and a copy of their Power Point presentation was included in the packet for the Board's review.
 - Director Montgomery began by giving an overview of their existing programs, and also focused on "their why," by sharing a success story of one of their graduates During her presentation, Director Montgomery also provided information on a new program proposal, along with some recommended program improvements.
 - The Metropolitan Career and Technical Center is located in Little Rock and serves all of Pulaski County and offers 8 programs of study. They would like to start offering Automation & Industrial Technologies as a means of meeting the manufacturing demand in the Little Rock area. According to the research shared, the need for a talent pool of industry-certified manufacturing employees is on the rise.
 - Career Specialist Huff went on to explain further details of their proposed new program, and also shared information on their industry partners and their IGNITE curriculum, which is considered to be a very high-quality manufacturing curriculum that can result not only in industry certification, but in college credit as well. She also went on to explain that unlike other parts of the state, Central Arkansas is lacking in high- quality programs to get high school students interested in a manufacturing career path.
 - Ms. Montgomery and Ms. Huff went on to explain that according to their budget projections, they will have a total of \$215,000 vocational center aid carryover funds, and their plan will be to spend those monies on Tier 1 equipment upgrades to 3 of their programs: automotive services, construction trades, and welding.
 - Ms. Montgomery also pointed out that the Metropolitan teachers and staff focus on educating their graduates on jobs that would be available to them upon graduation.
 - The Board commended the Ms. Montgomery and Ms. Huff on their work, and in particular, on the career opportunities they are providing in the manufacturing sector for Little Rock students. The Board also agreed that has been a lack of interest and a lack of skilled labor in this industry, both of which needs to be addressed. Ms. Montgomery then thanked the Board for pushing them towards Tier 1 programs and as a result, adjusting their funding.
 - Two of the Board members mentioned that they had been students of Metro themselves and were pleased to see that the quality of their work is continuing. Chairman Radke commented that she would look forward to seeing future resumes from Metro students come across her desk.

- Northeast Arkansas Career and Technical Center
 - Eddie Crain presented on behalf of NEACTC and began by explaining that the amount they need to expend in order to spend down to the 20% maximum threshold is \$169,917. With that amount, Mr. Crain proposed spending \$125,000 of those funds on the construction of a covered welding storage building, along with another \$44, 917 for new technology purchases.
 - Presently, their Welding and storage of their raw steel is an issue, since they do not have the space to cover it, and as a result, rusting has become an issue.
 - Mr. Crain pointed out that exposed sheets of steel are a safety hazard as sheared steel from supplier remains hazardous.

When a question arose regarding approval of these plans, Chairman Radke reminded the career center staff that today's presentations were for information purposes only, and that there would not be the need for a motion.

ACTION ITEM 4 – Secondary Technical Center Satellite Requests

Ms. Isaacs introduced the guests that were there to present their proposals, starting with Provost Chris Lorch and Technical Center Director Marcus Orf. Ms. Isaacs explained that Mountain View and surrounding districts have been underserved due to the distance to Ozarka's campuses in Melbourne and Ash Flat, and in some cases, districts have been completely unserved. As a result, Ozarka's Secondary Area Technical Center has proposed a satellite campus in Mountain View, which will provide training in Welding, as well as Medical Professions and will serve Mountain View, Timbo, Rural Special and the Unserved Shirley School District. .

- Ozarka – Mountain View – Provost Lorch made a PPT presentation along with his Technical Center Director Michael Orf explaining the employee needs in the area and also providing pictures of their welding, machining and automotive lab spaces at campuses in Ash Flat and Melbourne.
- Current enrollment numbers were also provided for not only their welding, automotive and machining programs, but for their health professions program as well.
- Excel Boats and EZ Trac Boat Trailers both have reached out to their school in order to fill their employee needs, and provided letters of support for their program.

On a motion made by Kenneth Calhoun, and second by Hugh McDonald, the Career Education and Workforce Development Board (CEWDB) approved Ozarka's Secondary Technical Center request for a satellite in Mountain View beginning in the fall of 2022.

Ms. Isaacs then went on to introduce the ASE Newport Staff who were there to explain their proposal regarding the expansion of the Ignite Academy

- ASE Newport – ASUN Jonesboro Campus – The staff for the Ignite Academy, along with the ASUN staff presented a PPT presentation that explained the reasoning behind their request, along with statistics related to their program.
- The Ignite Academy began in the Fall of 2016 on the ASU Newport campus, and through this program, secondary students can earn both high school and college credit within high- demand high skilled technical fields. To explain the rationale for their request for expansion, student success metrics were provided. Currently, they have a total enrollment of 347 students, with 2,227 college credit hours awarded, with 222 proficiency awards given and 30 credentials earned in their health professions program.

- Based on continued growth and employee demands in their service area, they are requesting approval to expand the following programs at a satellite on the ASUN-Jonesboro campus:
 - Health Professions
 - Welding
 - Advanced Manufacturing
 - Industrial Maintenance

On a motion made by Stacy Gunderman, and second by Mike Rogers the Career Education and Workforce Development Board (CEWDB) approved the Secondary Technical Center's request for a satellite on the ASU-Newport campus at Jonesboro beginning in the fall of 2022.

ACTION ITEM 5 – Approval of OSD Training Grant Rules

Mr. Waits explained to the Board that a copy of Act 892 of the 90th Arkansas General Assembly, 2015 Senate Bill 368, was provided in their packet and went on to take them through the strike through and revisions, which were marked in red.

These revisions included the following sections:

- Purpose of OSD grants
- Eligibility
- Grant Categories
- Professional Development
- Scoring of Proposals
- Miscellaneous Terms and Conditions

Mr. Waits noted that since they did not have a quorum, that they would take action on this agenda item next time. Mr. Waits then went on to give his Director's Report, beginning with the introduction of our newest OSD staff member, Apprenticeship Program Advisor Derrick Daniels.

Mr. Waits then highlighted some of the accomplishments we have seen in OSD over the past year, starting with apprenticeship expansion. Mr. Waits explained that apprenticeship in Arkansas has seen tremendous growth and that currently we have over 7,000 apprentices state-wide, which marks the highest percentage of growth that we have seen in the state's history.

OSD also launched a new apprenticeship video during National Apprenticeship Week, which featured some of our strategic apprenticeship partners such as Tyson, Lockheed Martin and First Orion, just to name a few. Arkansas hosted a total of 36 events during that week, making us 3rd in the region, nationally.

Mr. Waits also mentioned that enrollment numbers in the career centers are rebounding and that expansion efforts have been made across industry sectors. Concentrated efforts to expand state-operated robotics and automation centers have also been made, along with IT-driven programs such as Reskill Arkansas. Mr. Waits also mentioned that OSD launched its new website, along with its new apprenticeship database and portal.

Chairman Radke commended OSD on the accomplishments made over this past year and also noted that some of the changes that had initially caused some of the greatest concerns, such as the changes made to the tiered funding formula, had not come to fruition.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon the conclusion of Mr. Wait's Director's Report, and with no other comments, questions or concerns from the Board, on a motion made by Hugh McDonald, and second by Mike Rogers to adjourn the meeting, the Career Education and Workforce Development Board (CEWDB) adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM.

Mr. Cody Waits, Director
Office of Skills Development

Chair Radke
Career Education and Workforce
Development Board