

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

March 9, 2021
11:45 AM

The Career Education and Workforce Development Board (CEWDB)) was called to order by Chairman Gina Radke. The meeting was held at the UACCM Workforce Training Center in Morrilton, AR and CEWDB Board members were given the option to either attend in-person, or virtually.

A record of member attendance is as follows:

PRESENT (In-Person)

Ms. Gina Radke, Chair
Dr. Jeff Standridge, Vice Chair
Mr. Kenneth Calhoun
Mr. Mike Rogers

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members

Mr. Cody Waits, Ex-Officio Secretary
Dr. Maria Markham

PRESENT (Virtually)

Mr. Scott Copas
Mr. Michael Garner
Ms. Stacy Gunderman
Mr. Troy Keeping
Mr. Hugh McDonald
Mr. Stephen Percival
Dr. Keith Vire

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members

Dr. Charisse Childers
Mr. Richard Cooper (Mr. Solomon Graves)
Ms. Cindy Gillespie (Mr. Larry Crutchfield)
Dr. Andrea Henderson
Mr. Johnny Key
Mr. J.D. Lowery

ABSENT

None

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members

Mr. Mike Preston
Mr. Mike Hernandez
Ms. Esperanza Massana

ACTION ITEM 1- MINUTES FROM September 8, 2020

Chairman Gina Radke thanked the staff for the wonderful tour of the UACCM facility, along with the lunch that was provided, and called the meeting to order. Chairman Radke then moved on to the first action item on the agenda, which was the approval of the minutes from the previous board meeting, sent via email. Chairman Radke asked for questions/comments.

On a motion by Mr. Troy Keeping, and second by Dr. Jeff Standridge, the Career Education and Workforce Development Board (CEWDB) unanimously approved the minutes from September 8, 2020.

ACTION ITEM 2 – Approval of UACCM Satellite Campus

Chancellor of UACCM Ms. Lisa Willenberg requested approval for establishing a satellite center with the Clarksville School District. Through a Power-Point Presentation, Chancellor Willenberg explained the Career Academy and Technical Services Program, or CATS, which began last year and includes existing partnerships between Clarksville School District, Johnson County, the Clarksville Economic Development Commission, and local business/industry.

Chancellor Willenberg noted that Tyson had been instrumental in funding and developing the program. Chancellor Willenberg's presentation also focused on the following:

- UACCM Secondary Career Center
- Expansion of CP Nursing Assistant
- Partnership development
- Credential development
- Future academic opportunities

In summary, Chancellor Willenberg stated that this was a quality existing program with exceptional community/business support, utilizing a national curriculum (NCCER) approved by various advisory committees, and resulting in opportunities to earn a college credential, or an avenue to enter the healthcare field. Chancellor Willenberg also stated that UACCM was committed to providing access to additional education, training and employment opportunities, and also stated that the Superintendent for the Clarksville School District Dr. David Hopkins was in attendance, along with her Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Richard Counts, if the Board had any questions. Local business and industry representatives were also in attendance and available for questions.

Mr. Troy Keeping stated that for future presentations it should be noted that those attending virtually could not see the slide presentation advancing and could only see the opening Power-Point slide.

Mr. Hugh McDonald asked for the number of FTE's. Chancellor stated that they anticipate 10-12 FTE's, including both the industrial maintenance program and the medical professions.

There was a motion and second for approval, the Career Education and Workforce Development Board unanimously approved the satellite campus at Clarksville High School as a part of the UACCM Secondary Center. (There was no clear indication from the recording as to which board member made the motion or second for approval.)

ACTION ITEM 3 – Approval of WATC/UAFS Satellite Campus

Representing UAFS, Dr. Ken Warden made the Power-Point Presentation to the Board requesting the approval of the Western Arkansas Technical Center (WATC) satellite campus.

Dr. Warden covered the following information:

- Brief history of WATC
- Overview of the new satellite campus
- Financial commitment to the Peak Innovation Center
- Status of the facility remodel
- List of 14 technical programs, along with capacity/location
- List of 39 industry-recognized credentials
- Qualifications of teachers and staff

Dr. Warden also stated that it was a point of pride that they had students who were graduating from high school and were able to take their LPN licensure exam within a month of graduation, qualifying them for \$50,000 a year job offers.

In response to a question posed about the qualifications of the instructors, Dr. Warden referred back to his previous Power-Point Presentation slide and mentioned that in addition to the educational qualifications, the qualification expectations of the technical faculty, was no different from what was expected from the academic faculty, since often times the academic and technical students attend the same classes. They also pride themselves on the amount of industry experience their folks carry.

Dr. Warden also pointed out that as an educational administrator, being able to leverage this kind of funding to the benefit of Western Arkansas he considered to be a once in a life-time opportunity.

On a motion by Troy Keeping and a second by Hugh McDonald, Career Education and Workforce Development Board CEWDB) unanimously approved adding a UAFS Satellite Campus.

INFORMATION ITEM 4 – Report on Registered Apprenticeship

Mr. Mark McManus explained that as the OSD Apprenticeship Expansion Coordinator, his role and focus has been to build upon the momentum for Registered Apprenticeships (RA), along with the growth in a number of industry sectors/occupations in Arkansas. As part of that effort, Mr. McManus stated that as a means of expanding collaborative partnerships, OSD has reached out to the 10 local Workforce Development Boards across the state. Each of those boards has a Business Services Team and together they have made local employers aware of the various opportunities RA can bring, in order to fulfil some of their workforce development challenges. In addition to that, OSD has reached out to their community college partners, workforce development coordinators, and regional chambers of commerce in order to continue to get the message out and create awareness. Through a Power Point Presentation Mr. McManus shared the following information:

- USDOL American Apprenticeship Initiative (AAI)
- Federal Discretionary Grants
 - Arkansas Apprenticeship Pathways Initiative (AAPI)
 - Arkansas Expands Apprenticeship (AREA)
- RA Expansion – 50% increase in the number of apprentices and programs since 2016
- Education, Awareness & Outreach
 - Virtual Manufacturing Employer Forum
 - Expansion efforts will focus on the following Industry Sectors:
 - Manufacturing
 - Health Care
 - Utilities/Energy
 - Transportation/Logistics

Dr. Jeff Standridge mentioned that there are number of hospitals across the state that are offering nursing residency programs, where graduates nurses for a 3-month period can work on the job. Dr. Standridge asked if any of those programs were registered and/or would benefit from being registered. Mr. McManus responded that TruMont was working with some of the smaller hospital systems, such as National Park Medical Center, but that the opportunity could certainly be there to work with larger hospital systems, such as Conway Regional, based on the needs of the employer.

Mr. Cody Waits pointed out that when OSD first started working with TruMont, the conversation was centered around the amount of turnover they were experiencing among their first-year nurses, as much as 60%, so any hospital in the state that would like to partake in that, OSD would be more than happy to have that conversation. Since TruMont is registered, and is recognized in the state of Arkansas, it would simply be a matter of registering additional employers, and that could be done very rapidly.

Mr. Mike Rogers stated that rather than asking a question, he would like to bring up a consideration for the Board based on a problem that he is seeing and believes all apprenticeship schools are also seeing. Mr. Rogers stated that it would be great to see an online portal for qualifications to be an instructor for apprenticeship, so that people could self-identify that they have an interest in a geographic location, because that is where the bottle-neck is for him. Mr. Rogers stated that if there

was as much effort being put into finding that qualified instructor, it would be a great opportunity for the state.

Mr. Michael Garner mentioned that the Board might be interested in promoting participation in The Virtual Manufacturing Employer Forum in April and asked how they would go about it.

Mr. Waits mentioned that the script and the date had just been finalized by the Governor's office yesterday, and so they have not put out the marketing materials as of yet, but that they expect to within the next week. Mr. Waits then stated that between now and then, he will reach out to Mr. Garner and determine what role we want to play. Mr. Waits extended that invitation to all Board members and emphasized he would love to have their assistance in driving as many employers to that forum as possible.

When the question arose concerning how the Arkansas state office fits under the acting DOL apprenticeship state director, Mr. McManus then went on to explain that Lee Price has moved to Texas and that Randy Prather is now the new USDOL State Director of the Office of Apprenticeship. Mr. McManus stated that Mr. Prather is a one-man shop with a lot of responsibility, in his opinion, and part of what they are trying to do is to support the efforts of the USDOL by bringing programs to his desk, where then he can assist employers one-on-one in finalizing the standards, the curriculum, and getting registered. USDOL has final approval of programs, and the OSD State Office of Apprenticeship supports those efforts by utilizing our resources and funding for new programs and program expansion.

Mr. Waits then mentioned that when organizations are interested in apprenticeship, OSD typically works with them on the front-end to figure out what that needs to look like, is it's a good fit, and how does it fit into the overall structure for workforce recruitment, development, and retention strategies. Once that is identified, that is when they bring in Mr. Prather and discuss standards, appendices, etc., and that the questions was a good one because as pointed out in previous Director's Reports, OSD is continuing to have the conversation around moving from an Office of Apprenticeship (OA) state to a State Approving Agency (SAA), which would move that function from OA to the State Office of Apprenticeship here at OSD, and what that would mean is that we would take over that additional responsibility of registering those programs for the state of Arkansas and reporting those numbers through RAPIDS, or through some other database. Alabama has been the first state to make that transition from an OA state to SAA state in probably 20-25 years, and Mr. Waits pointed out that he doesn't think they had the same level of support we had from the OA office and that internally, we already have the structure in place in terms of staffing, funding, guidelines, rules, and laws in place to be able to do that. It is something that we are strongly looking at to see if that's the right approach for Arkansas, moving forward.

Jobs for the Future: Mr. McManus introduced guest speakers Deborah Kobes, Deputy-Director for JFF's Center for Apprenticeship & Work Based Learning and Mark Genua, who serves as the Associate-Director. They presented information about the work they are doing nationally with registered apprenticeship and mentioned that the apprenticeship growth we are seeing in Arkansas is consistent with what they are seeing on a national level.

Some statistics they shared included:

- Apprenticeship has seen a 128% growth since 2009
- This is largely due to the close to \$900 Million Dollars the federal government has invested in apprenticeship through AAI.
- This has been a bi-partisan effort and has been supported for three administrations.
- CA has the highest number of new apprenticeship growth, with AR showing 2500 in FY2019.
- Construction has seen the largest increase, followed by Public Administration, Manufacturing, Transportation/Warehousing, and Utilities.
- Of the Top 30 Occupations, the top 5 included (in order, from 1 to 5) Electrician, Carpenter, Construction Craft Laborer, Truck Driver (Heavy), and Plumber.

- There are 25,000 Registered Apprenticeship programs nationwide, with 3,133 of those being established in FY 2019.
- The National Apprenticeship Act (2021) is seeking to modernize apprenticeship, which JFF supports.

In response to a question regarding IRAPS, Ms. Kobes stated that there had been an overwhelming response from the Registered Apprenticeship community expressing concern, mainly that there was ambiguity with regards to how compliance to safety and quality standards would be enforced. There was also concern as to the confusion IRAPS had caused the employers, particularly since they are parallel systems that cannot draw upon the same funds. Lastly, although the RTI and OJT elements were similar, there was no minimum duration of training required.

Mr. Johnny Key noted that the funding to the Arkansas Apprenticeship Pathways Initiative (AAPI) grant ends on March 30th of this year, and that the funding to the Arkansas Expands Apprenticeship (AREA) grant expires in April. Mr. Key asked if that funding was going to continue, and if we have a gap, what is the impact going to be on these programs.

Mr. McManus stated that the good news on the federal side was that there was some indication that the funding for these grants may continue, and another round of funding may be available centered around inclusion and diversity. In the interim, as a state, we are always looking for ways to leverage our funding opportunities at the Office of Skills Development, and through our WIOA system.

Mr. Waits mentioned that Congressman Hill has been making suggestions regarding the reauthorization of the National Apprenticeship Act, and pointed out that there may be an additional 3 billion dollars available over a 5-year period, creating new funding opportunities to invest in apprenticeship at the K-12 level.

Mr. McDonald mentioned that we don't typically think of apprenticeship and 4-year universities in the same sentence, but as colleges face the pressure of trying to keep tuition costs down for students, Mr. McDonald asked JFF whether there is anything going on at the national level where 4 universities are looking at non-traditional apprenticeships types with existing programs they may already have.

Mr. Genua mentioned that the community colleges have really stepped it up in this space, but that they are seeing more and more 4-year universities being interested and shared the example of Purdue University's Cyber-Security apprenticeship program. The trends that they are seeing includes more 4-year schools being interested and seeing this as a way to bring in more students, while reducing tuition costs, and they are seeing more partnership with their local community college, where the student starts at the community college, and then continues with the university.

Ms. Kobes pointed out that community colleges are starting to work with emerging non-traditional apprenticeship programs, that tend to be shorter in length, averaging 18 months, compared to the traditional programs, which can average anywhere from 4 – 6 years.

Mr. Rogers pointed out that there have been some best practices models that he has seen, and that pre-apprenticeship can get high school students a year into the path, which then enables them to graduate with some endorsement and credentials. Pre-apprenticeship can also help them envision what their future could be within the next 4 years, which Mr. Rogers mentioned is not an easy for an 18-year old to envision.

Mr. Rogers also stated that the collaborative work being done on behalf of Arkansas apprenticeship helps establish some mile-markers for students to shoot for and that OSD has done a phenomenal job to pioneer that effort for the nation.

ACTION ITEM 5 – Approval of Secondary Center Rules

Ms. Stephanie Isaacs began by notifying the Board that there were some changes made to the Secondary Technical Centers rules, some that were major, and some that were minor. Ms. Isaacs went on to go over those changes, starting with page 2 of the rules, which were included in the packet. This change reflected that fact that OSD is not planning on approving any new centers and as a result, the forms were taken down from the website because if there was interest in starting a new program, the preference would be to engage OSD, rather than just submitting a new application. Similar changes were made under the New or Expanded programs section of the rules, since that too will no longer apply. Ms. Isaacs then went on to explain the changes made to page 3, which took out the language referencing Perkins V federal funding, since that does not apply to most of the secondary centers.

Ms. Isaacs pointed out the biggest changes would be found on page 4, which specifies the rules for funding. Starting vocational center aid, Ms. Isaacs mentioned that the goal was to strengthen the language and to clarify that as public funds, the Department of Education would distribute the funds and that OSD would administer them. Clarification was also made with regards to the number of payments, explaining that one payment would be made in the spring, and one in the fall.

Ms. Isaacs went on to point out that based on the advice given by the Board in September, OSD obtained an emergency waiver, enabling them to distribute funding to those centers who were in deficit spending, as a result of the pandemic. As the rules stood, distribution of funds was solely done on the basis of enrollment. This proposed change would allow the Career Education and Workforce Development Board (CEWDB) to adjust the tiered funding rates on an as-needed basis if FTE enrollment funding exceeds the budgeted amount.

An additional proposed change would allow OSD to distribute any unallocated funding for equipment upgrades, program expansion or to carry forward into the next fiscal year, in coordination with the Department of Education.

Troy Keeping questioned why the Board would not be involved in the decision when there was an excess of funds. The proposed change would have OSD making an internal decision with regards to unallocated funding but coming to the Board when there were shortfalls. Ms. Isaacs pointed out that they could come to the Board for both if that was what the Board preferred, and Mr. Waits confirmed that doing so would not be an issue.

Lastly, it was proposed that the amount of carryover in vocational center aid received by a secondary center shall not exceed 20% and that any remaining balances above 20% be returned to the public-school fund. Ms. Isaacs pointed out that the rationale behind this change is in the fact that amongst the 30 career centers, there is 4.5 million dollars in carry-over, and that 80% of that 4.5 million is held by 5 centers.

This change would require that all 5 of those centers invest their carry-over into equipment upgrades, program expansion or return that money to the public-school fund, which in turn, could aid other centers. Ms. Isaacs mentioned that they have the support of Dr. Maria Markham as well as the Department of Education with regards to this proposed change.

It was also noted that there would be the opportunity for public comment with regards to this proposed change, once it has been approved by the Board and Governor's Office, per the required promulgation process.

Other changes focused around language clean-up and included the new website address and the fact that the various yearly reports will need to be submitted to OSD utilizing this new website.

INFORMATION ITEM 6 – Secondary Center Update

Ms. Stephanie Isaacs presented a Power-Point Presentation on the fiscal impact made to the Secondary Career & Technical Centers. Ms. Isaacs began by pointing out the FTE impact as a result of COVID, resulting in an enrollment drop to 2261, when typically, they would see a little over 3,000 students enrolled.

Ms. Isaacs also mentioned that to date, a little over 7.5 million dollars was spent last year of the 19 million dollars that are available. When comparing last year's numbers to this year's numbers, Ms. Isaacs presented the following information:

- FY 2019 – 2020
 - Tier 1 FTE Funding = 1196 @ 6227.33
 - = \$7, 447, 887
- FY 2020-2021
 - Tier 1 FTE Funding = 989 @ 8000
 - = 7, 914, 675

Ms. Isaacs pointed out that as enrollment went down, funding went up and that was what they wanted because they wanted to be able to support those Tier 1 programs. Ms. Isaacs also mentioned that she utilized this same model when considering Tier 2 funding, and the breakdown of those figures included the following:

- FY 2019 – 2020
 - Tier 2 FTE Funding = 1319 @ 6227.33
 - = \$8, 213, 844
- FY 2020-2021
 - Tier 2 FTE Funding = 1028 @ 5500
 - = 5, 652, 174

Ms. Isaacs also mentioned that there had been some concern regarding Medical Professions and IT being included in Tier 2 funding, but to keep in mind that based on a multitude of spreadsheets and analysis, statewide, these programs are able to run at net income revenue.

With Tier 3 funding, Ms. Isaacs stated that funding went down here as well, and these numbers are as follows:

- FY 2019 – 2020
 - Tier 3 FTE Funding = 434 @ 6227.33
 - = \$2, 702, 661
- FY 2020-2021
 - Tier 3 FTE Funding = 244 @ 3000
 - = 731, 502

Ms. Isaacs also pointed out that Culinary Arts was hit especially hard as a result of not being able to cook onsite, and those numbers are reflected in the figures presented. Ms. Isaacs went on to explain that in the fall, she visited 12 centers that were greatly affected this past year and were in financial trouble. As a result of emergency funding obtained by the Governor's Office, they were able to provide supplemental funding in the amount of \$684,000 to help those schools pay their salaries and other expenses. In the spring, a total of 19 centers received supplemental funding and that centers with large carryover balances (exceeding \$200,000) were not eligible for supplemental funding.

Ms. Isaacs went on to explain that of the \$19, 240, 092 that was appropriated this year, \$16, 200,000 was spent and that the expected balance would be between 2.5 and 2.7 million dollars, which they are requesting to carry over into next year. Ms. Isaacs pointed out this importance of this request, particularly with the approval of large centers such as Peak and the Saline County Center, which the Board had approved 3 years ago. Expected enrollment numbers for Peak would be around 1.4 million dollars and Ms. Isaacs stated that for the Saline County Center, they are expecting enrollment funding around 1.2 million dollars and so as a result, they will need the 2.7 million dollars in carryover in order to support the satellites that were previously approved.

Ms. Isaacs also pointed out that UA Pulaski Tech has decided to shut their center down for next year, and as a result, they will take out the \$800,000 that would have been set aside for their funding, leaving a little over \$3,000,000 available in supplemental funding.

Ms. Isaacs also pointed out that she and Mr. Waits analyze on a daily basis what they believe the FTE enrollment numbers will do, so that they can keep the funding rate at \$8,000 per FTE for Tier 1, \$5500 per FTE for Tier 2, and \$3000 per FTE for Tier 3.

In response to a question regarding articulation agreements, Ms. Isaacs and Mr. Waits pointed out that OSD would welcome the opportunity to assist the two-year schools in creating more concurrent credit opportunities, particularly among the schools that have developed strong partnerships, such as NWTI and NWACC.

INFORMATION ITEM 7 – Directors Report

Mr. Waits began his Director's Report by sharing some information through a Power-Point Presentation that included data and figures regarding apprenticeship, and in particular, the number of programs, the number of apprentices and the number of completers.

Mr. Waits first explained that a lot was done this to ensure that the apprenticeship data reported was accurate. This goal was the direct result of uncovering a lack of data integrity discovered when evaluating which programs were active and which were registered. Mr. Waits pointed out that the issue had been with the way DOL reports their numbers, and after working with Randy Prather, they have done much to clarify which programs have active apprentices.

Mr. Waits stated that as of December, there were 135 active programs, and that the number dropped down to 118 and is now hovering at 121. Mr. Waits mentioned that with regards to the number of new apprentices, they are on track to see approximately 750 new apprentices a quarter, or 3000 new apprentices a year. Mr. Waits also pointed out that they typically see a huge drop in January and that trend tends to be a direct result of cancellations at the end of the semester. Mr. Waits also stated that the drop in January could be a result of the current funding formula, which ties the instructor reimbursement rate to enrollment, and as a result, his office will be examining that issue further.

In terms of the total number of apprentices, Mr. Waits mentioned that number was as high as 7,000, dropping to 6990 in December and now hovering at 6838. Mr. Waits stated that they were working diligently to get that number back up.

Mr. Waits then went on to share the number strategic partnerships and initiatives.

Namely:

- ConAgra Brands
 - Industrial Maintenance
- North Arkansas College
 - Turf Management, Small Engine Repair
- Lockheed Martin
 - Manufacturing
- University of Arkansas Fort Smith

- Multi-Craft Consortium (includes 5-6 employers in western Arkansas)
- Arkansas Center for Data Sciences (ACDS)
 - Industry Intermediary for IT

Mr. Waits stated that it was important to note the success they are seeing with ACDS. For example, they have over 10 occupations now registered with the Department of Labor and are currently working with 40-plus companies all across the state of Arkansas. Mr. Waits also pointed out that in comparison to other OA states, Arkansas ranked second in the country in terms of newly created IT apprentices.

Mr. Waits then went on to explain the changes he has seen with regards to the Workforce Development Grants and provided those numbers by quarter. Mr. Waits stated that receiving only 35 grants in Q1 was a direct reflection of the hesitancy of companies during the pandemic. When compared to Q3, when OSD received 105 grants, Mr. Waits commented that he was pleased to see that change since it reflected an increased in consumer confidence.

With regards to the Skills Development Grants, Mr. Waits shared the following figures below:

- Q1 - \$464,000
- Q2 - \$520,000
- Q3 - \$660,000

Mr. Waits also pointed out that just as last week, they had the highest number of grants since the pandemic started. Mr. Waits then went on to share information on the funded projects for FY 21, which included:

- H-Volt Program – UA Pulaski Tech
 - Lineman Training
- Northwest Technical Institute
 - Welding
- Peak Innovation Center
 - Manufacturing
- Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub
 - Upskilling underemployed/unemployed
- ReSkill Arkansas
- Future Fit

When the question arose regarding the cost to the lineman program, Mr. Waits mentioned that the investment was approximately \$100,000 per cohort, with Entergy investing about \$50,000 to develop the lab and pole yard. Mr. Waits also mentioned that the recurring costs would be approximately \$6,000 to \$7,000 per person, and that the requirements for those students were so strict that out of the initial 120 students who applied, only 30 made it to the training.

When asked about how that compares to Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub, Mr. Waits pointed out that the lineman program was much more targeted with their employer partners for a specific industry, where as the Innovation Hub worked with 3 areas: 1) Roofing with Diamond State Vocational School, 2) Welding with Pulaski Tech, and 3) Carpentry with Carpenter’s Daughter. The Innovation Hub program reflected approximately \$40,000 dollars of funding, which included leveraged funds as a result of the apprenticeship programs OSD has with Diamond State and Carpenter’s Daughter.

Mr. Waits then went on to mention the success of ReSkill Arkansas, a program that targets the unemployed. With an initial 263 applicants, that number has now grown to 507, and with only 155 assessments initially done, Mr. Waits shared that the number of assessments has now risen to 489, with the number of those trained jumping from 65 to 149.

Mr. Waits also mentioned employer partners such as Citadel Systems, Idestini, Epoch Online, IT James and PCA Technologies, all of which would be available to hire the applicants upon completion. Mr. Waits also stated that there are plans to launch the Manufacturing side and that they have been working with Tyson Foods, ConAgra, Hytrol, and Pace Industries to evaluate what the assessments should look like so that a determination could be made as to whether the program would be a good fit.

Mr. Waits pointed out that at the end of the day its al about providing opportunities for those that needed it the most. Mr. Waits also stated that if it wasn't for the partnership with DWS and Dr. Childers, they would not have had the data necessary, or the capability to reach out to these individuals, and as a result, would not have the 150 enrolled and the almost 300 plus in the pipeline.

Mr. Waits then went on to explain the important bills that have come up during this legislative session, and gave a legislative overview of these bills which included:

- SB491 – OSD Apprenticeship Bill
- HB1355 – Arkansas Motor Vehicle Commission, Grant Partnership
- HB1501 – Vocational Center Aid, Maintenance & Operations
- HB1553 – Earn & Learn Act of 2021
- SB132 – OSD Appropriation Bill, Salary and Benefits Correction
- SB235 – State Board of Education Oversight
- SB265 – Riverside Vocational School and OSD partnership
- SB280 – OSD Reappropriation

In response to a question regarding HB1501 and whether OSD was concerned whether this bill would affect funding to the Secondary Career Centers, Mr. Waits pointed out that if the centers are able to reinvest those funds into maintenance and operations, then there may be less funding from OSD to start new programs if that is how those centers choose to utilize those funds.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Hugh McDonald, and a second was made by Mr. Scott Copas to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Gina Radke adjourned the meeting at 2:45 PM.

Mr. Cody Waits, Director
Office of Skills Development

Ms. Gina Radke, Chair
Career Education and Workforce
Development Board