



**Governor's State Workforce Development Board
March 20, 2025, State Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Thomas Freeland	Ms. Felicia Johnson
Mr. Warren Snead	Mr. Mike King
Mr. William Floyd	Rep. Randy Ligon
Mr. Charles Brave, Jr.	Mr. George "GP" McLeer, Jr.
Ms. Susan Cohen	Mr. "Pat" Michaels
Col. Craig Currey (retd.)	Ms. Elaine Morgan
Ms. Darline Graham	Mr. Tyler Servant
Dr. Tim Hardee	Dr. Windsor Sherrill
Mr. Chris Hall	Mr. Jeremy Stephens
Mr. Jay Holloway	Ms. Britt D. Vergnolle

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Cliff Bourke, Jr.
Mr. Gregory C. Clark
Mr. Michael W. Sexton
Mr. Gregory L. Tinnell
Senator Ross Turner
Mr. John Uprichard

Welcome and Opening Remarks Mr. Thomas Freeland, SWDB Chair
Chairman Thomas Freeland called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes from December 19, 2024* Mr. Freeland
Col. Craig Currey motioned to approve the December 19, 2024, meeting minutes. Mr. Charles Brave, Jr. seconded the motion. The State Workforce Development Board (SWDB) unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes.

DEW Director's Report..... Mr. William Floyd
Mr. William Floyd, Executive Director of the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW), presented the state's employment situation, including employment rates, current agency initiatives and projects, and an update from the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development (CCWD). As of January 2025, 2,439,684 individuals were employed in South Carolina. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January decreased to 4.3%.

Director Floyd reported that third quarter Regional Workforce Advisor and the DEW Rural Outreach Team activity fostered 610 student engagement opportunities and led to over 325 successful job placements, respectively. He advised that the Stay to Apply Your Skills (S.T.A.Y.S.) program, which encourages Veterans to stay in South Carolina by offering them five interview opportunities when they use the SC Works system, continues to positively impact veterans and employers throughout South Carolina.

He also highlighted that the CCWD has officially launched the Find Your Future resource portal. This centralized platform offers end users access to various resources related to education and workforce development throughout South Carolina.

Ms. Dorothy Weaver, the Director of Communications at DEW, presented on the SC Works branding campaign entitled "Where There's More." As of March 2025, this initiative has generated approximately \$1,000,000 in return on investment.



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NGA Legislative Update.....Mr. Timothy Carlton

Mr. Tim Carlton, Legislative Director at the National Governors Association, provided the third quarter legislative update covering Congress's Continuing Resolution, reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), and changes in federal leadership.

On March 15, 2025, Congress passed a full-year Continuing Resolution for fiscal year 2025, maintaining the established fiscal year 2024 funding levels for WIOA formula programs. The WIOA reauthorization, "A Stronger Workforce for America Act," was removed from the March 2025 Continuing Resolution. Both chambers of Congress must support additional federal action before any proposed changes can be enacted.

The Senate confirmed Lori Chavez-DeRemer as the United States Secretary of Labor. Henry Mack, III has been nominated to serve as the Assistant Secretary of the Employment and Training Administration.

Partner Spotlight..... Office of Adult Education

To enhance collaboration and raise awareness of partner services, showcasing the innovation and accomplishments of partner programs significantly impacting workforce development, the Partner Spotlight agenda has been added to the SWDB quarterly meeting. Mr. Mike King, State Adult Education Director, delivered the first update in this initiative, focusing on adult education programs, including enrollment, services, and performance.

In the program year 2023-2024, Adult Education saw student enrollment reach over 23,000 individuals. Its Title II programs met all five negotiated measures related to employment, median earnings, credential attainment, and measurable skills gains.

Two service offerings that have positively contributed to these workforce preparation outcomes are the Integrated Education and Training (IET) and Workplace Literacy (WPL) Programs. In the program year 2023-2024, these initiatives served 382 students (IET) and 474 employees (WPL).

SWDB Strategic Plan UpdateMr. Wilson Steinmeyer

During the SWDB board meeting on December 19, 2024, members voted to approve the priorities outlined in the 2024-2027 SWDB Strategic Plan. Mr. Wilson Steinmeyer, Strategic Partnerships Coordinator, provided an update on the plan's status, next steps, and potential distribution.

In March 2025, the Strategic Plan for 2024-2027 was finalized. The completed version will be available on the SC Works website and the CCWD's Find Your Future Portal. Additionally, it will be distributed to state partners, WIOA administrators, local workforce development board members, and non-traditional partners. State Workforce Development Board members will receive a physical copy of the finalized plan, along with a laminated one-page summary detailing its priorities, by mail.



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SWDB Member AcknowledgmentMr. Freeland

Chairman Freeland introduced and welcomed three new SWDB members:

- Ms. Britt D. Vergnolle, with over 25 years of experience in business leadership, will hold a business representative on the SWDB. She brings extensive expertise in employee recruiting services, particularly for businesses in the Southeast facing chronic labor shortages.
- Mr. Jeremy Stephens, Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer at Tidelands Health, will join the board as a business representative. He brings extensive experience in strategic leadership across various human resource functions within health systems, including recruiting, staffing, employee health and wellness, compensation, training and development, safety, and enterprise project management.
- Mr. George Patrick "GP" McLeer, Jr., Mayor of the City of Fountain Inn, will serve as a chief local elected official representative. He brings to the board valuable expertise in policy monitoring at all levels that affect the nonprofit sector, as well as experience in nonprofit advocacy engagement.

Other Business/AdjournMr. Freeland

Chairman Freeland reminded SWDB and Local Workforce Development Board members that the Annual Ethics Training will be on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. The State's Ethics Commission will facilitate this virtual training.

SWDB members will also participate in WIOA Funding Allocation Training, reviewing the WIOA Funding Allocation formula and providing additional information related to allocation and monitoring requirements on April 23, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

The next full board meeting will be on June 19, 2025, at 11 a.m. in the C. Lem Harper building.

The meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m.