

**Governor’s State Workforce Development Board**  
**November 10, 2021 Workforce Committee on Innovation Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Mr. Jay Holloway  
Col. Craig Currey  
Mr. Archie Maddox  
Ms. Felicia Johnson

**Members Excused:**

None

**Welcome and Opening Remarks ..... Mr. Jay Holloway, Committee Chair**

Mr. Jay Holloway, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

**Approval of August 24, 2021 Minutes\* ..... Mr. Holloway**

Mr. Archie Maddox motioned to approve the August 24, 2021, meeting minutes. Col. Craig Currey seconded the motion, and the Committee unanimously approved the minutes.

**Digital Economy Ecosystem ..... Ms. Kim Bowman**

Ms. Kim Bowman, Founder, SC Rural Innovation Network (SCRIN), presented to the Committee on the development of Digital Economy Ecosystems (DEE) in Williamsburg, Barnwell, and Orangeburg counties. A DEE is a mix of technical education, job training, and community planning to bring digital jobs, local entrepreneurship, and remote work opportunities to rural communities. A US Department of Agriculture Rural Business Development Grant, awarded to the SC Office of Rural Health, is currently funding these projects. The projects begin with the development of a roadmap, which is a strategic planning tool for kick-starting a digital economy; an economic development tool for revitalizing counties and communities through the advancements of digital literacy and skills; and a guide for creating a digitally skilled workforce and pipeline for local and remote tech jobs, new businesses, entrepreneurs, and innovations. Key community stakeholders create DEE roadmaps through a process of assessing community readiness, evaluating community assets, and prioritizing short and long-term goals. The DEE projects in Barnwell and Williamsburg are making progress toward implementing several strategies outlined in their roadmaps. Orangeburg is in the discovery phase of its project, and SCRIN is evaluating Newberry and Greenwood as future project sites. There was a discussion about the lack of broadband Internet access in rural areas and the implications on DEE projects. Ms. Bowman emphasized the project’s focus on taking advantage of broadband Internet access in downtown or central locations by creating co-working/collaborative workspaces that will enable individuals to train and work remotely.

**Committee Priorities Update ..... Ms. Nina Staggers**

Ms. Nina Staggers provided a progress report on two Committee priorities:

- *Distribute relevant publications:* Board members received the September issue of the Trends publication, created by DEW’s Division of Labor Market Information, and will continue to receive the publication monthly. The September issue featured data on several important labor market measures, including job openings, new hires, and layoffs and discharges.
- *Develop Labor Market Information (LMI) training for board members:* with the Committee’s emphasis on data and statistics, staff recommended the addition of an LMI module to New Member Orientation. The training module will include an introduction to LMI, covering topics such as what is LMI, types of LMI, and common definitions. The training will also provide tutorials on reading and understanding the weekly data dashboard, the monthly employment

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announcement, and the Trends publication. The goal of LMI training is to help board members understand how to use data for planning and decision-making.

**Other Business/Adjourn..... Mr. Holloway**  
The Committee did not discuss any other business. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.