

**Governor’s State Workforce Development Board
February 17, 2022 Collaboration and Partnership Committee Meeting Minutes**

Members Present:

Ms. Valerie S. Richardson
Mr. Greg Clark
Mr. John Durst
Mr. Mike King

Members Excused:

Mr. Michael Sexton
Mr. Cliff Bourke, Jr.
Representative Joe Daning
Senator Ross Turner

Welcome and Opening Remarks Ms. Valerie Richardson, Committee Chair

Ms. Valerie Richardson, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of November 2, 2021, Meeting Minutes* Ms. Richardson

Mr. Greg Clark motioned to approve the November 2, 2021, meeting minutes. Mr. Mike King seconded the motion, and the Committee unanimously approved the minutes.

SC Commission on Higher Education..... Mr. Richard Davis

Mr. Richard Davis, Workforce Development Manager, Commission on Higher Education (CHE), presented the Commission’s workforce development priorities, which include: a 60x30-credential attainment goal, enhanced transfer and articulation between 2 and 4-year programs, the utilization of public-private partnerships, program alignment with emerging industry demand, and sharing relevant information about college and career options. Ms. Richardson and a meeting attendee asked for clarification on the definition of “credential,” and whether credential attainment includes completion of hands-on learning activities. Mr. Davis responded that there is a willingness to recognize hands-on-learning when assessing credential attainment, but the discussion around the scope and definition of “credential” is in the early stages. Mr. Mike King expressed excitement about the 60x30-credential attainment goal and offered a summary of the GED by ’23 initiative. Mr. Davis reinforced the importance of credentials, explaining that while there are current openings for individuals with the right credentials, it is important to attain a college education to be competitive in the workforce long-term.

WIOA State Plan.....Ms. Jackie Taylor

Ms. Taylor shared progress and accomplishments on each of the WIOA State Plan priorities established in 2020, which support the SWDB’s vision, mission, and objectives. She explained that states are required to submit a state plan every four years outlining a strategic plan for the state’s workforce system. South Carolina’s WIOA State Plan took effect in July 2020, covering Program Years 2020 through 2023. The state plan includes ten federal workforce programs administered by the following partner agencies: Department of Employment and Workforce, Department of Education, Office of Adult Education, Department of Social Services, Vocational Rehabilitation Department, and Commission for the Blind. States are required to modify their plan every two years. The modification is due March 15, 2022. Pending approval by the Executive Committee, DEW will submit the plan for federal review. There were no questions or discussion on the State Plan modification.

*Denotes Voting Item

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Other Business/Adjourn..... Ms. Richardson

The US Department of Labor recently appointed Ms. Richardson to the Advisory Committee on Apprenticeships. She offered key highlights from the Advisory Committee that are relevant to the SWDB’s priorities:

- Lack of industry awareness is a barrier to accessing apprenticeship opportunities; underserved communities experience barriers with access to and successful completion of apprenticeships; and there are unique barriers for customers in rural areas, such as broadband, childcare, and transportation.
- There has been conversation about resource alignment with new and emerging occupations and using incentives to spur the adoption of Registered Apprenticeship programs among new and emerging sectors. Ms. Richardson noted that revisiting the industry analysis is timely given this national conversation.
- The Committee is evaluating apprenticeship pathways, including pre-apprenticeships, youth apprenticeships, and degree apprenticeships, which align with the stackable credential and career pathway efforts led by the Department of Education.
- Branding, the perception of Registered Apprenticeships, and the alignment of apprenticeships to living wage occupations are important for progression through a Registered Apprenticeship program.

Ms. Richardson acknowledged Mr. John Durst’s retirement and resignation from the Board. She reminded Committee members of the SWDB meeting on March 29, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.