

RHODE ISLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND
21st CENTURY WORKFORCE COMMISSION

PUBLIC SESSION

May 15, 2009

The second meeting of the 21st Century Workforce Commission (the Commission) was held on Friday, May 15, 2009, in Public Session in the offices of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation, 315 Iron Horse Way, Suite 101, Providence, Rhode Island pursuant to notice of the meeting to all Members and public notice of meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto, as required by applicable Rhode Island Law.

The following Members were present and participated throughout the meeting as indicated: Armeather Gibbs, Chair; J. Michael Saul; Robert Shea; Rep. Joseph Almeida; Eileen Farley; William McGowan; Diane St. Laurent; Leslie Taito; Paul Harrington; Christopher Wissmann; Sandra Powell; Beth Cotter representing Rep. Gordon Fox; and George Mason representing Sen. Daniel Connors.

Mr. Julian Alssid and Ms. Maureen Bozell of Workforce Strategy Center facilitated the meeting and Ms. Gibbs presided.

Welcome

Ms. Gibbs called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. She welcomed everyone and thanked Workforce Strategy Center for the work it has done to gather information and speakers for this meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Taito and seconded by Mr. Shea the minutes of the March 26, 2009 meeting were approved.

Status Report

Mr. Saul presented a summary of the recommendations submitted by the EDC Review Panel to restructure the Agency in order to elevate and prioritize its ability to make strategic investments. He emphasized the findings of the CCRI Commission will be a

vital component of the EDC's work in making these investments. Next, Mr. Alssid provided an overview of career pathways programs which have emerged over the last 10-15 years as a whole new way of thinking of how agencies can coordinate and integrate workforce training and education programs. Career pathway programs vary but share the common purpose of aligning education and training programs to provide multiple entrance and exit points to address the needs of all constituents at all levels with the goal of increasing the quality of the workforce.

Career Pathways: Lakeland Community College

Deborah Hardy, Dean of Science and Health Technologies at Lakeland Community College in Ohio, presented a case study on how her institution revised its curriculum into a career pathways-oriented program. According to Ms. Hardy, Lakeland's success was based on moving from a student-driven curriculum with anecdotal success metrics to a data driven system based on collaborative planning and shared design. Lakeland also actively sought new external funding opportunities and effective tools for communicating with students and local employers (data sources). Governor Strickland is expanding the Lakeland model to community college systems statewide.

Career Pathways: The Commonwealth of Virginia

Elizabeth Creamer, Director, Career Pathways in the Virginia Community College System, presented a case-study on a statewide initiative. In Virginia, the call for a statewide career pathway system emerged from the Governor's Strategic Workforce Plan. The emphasis of the Virginia effort was to develop a process to create living, meaningful pathways with the goal of increasing high school graduation rates, increasing higher education matriculation and decreasing remediation rates. In Virginia's experience, high visibility programs led to statewide successes. Ms. Creamer provided the example of the Career Coach program which is a "headhunting" program for the state to identify and mentor student candidates with the appropriate caliber for high education.

Next Steps

Commission Chair Gibbs introduced Maureen Bozell of WSC who spoke of upcoming stakeholder outreach meetings that will take place in June for the most part.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Christine Smith
Secretary