

MICHIGAN WORKS! WEST CENTRAL
CAREER & EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (CEAC)
VIA ZOOM
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020

MINUTES

Members Present

Bennett, Merri
Christmas, Christy
Eppley, Jonathan
Gaines, Tamera
Gandhi, Nicholas
Horowski, Dale
Kratz, Bill
Marek, Ron
Pelton, Chris
Sanchez, Tracy
Wininger, Lisa

Members Absent

Gibbs, Ken
Miller, Mike
Spedowske, Gretchen
Stakley, Deedee
Tomaski, Melanie

Michigan Works! West Central Staff

Davis, Toni Keene, Shelly Shoemaker, Connie

Call to Order

The meeting for the Career & Educational Advisory Council (CEAC) was brought to order by Vice Chair Ron Marek via Zoom at 11:04 a.m. A quorum is present. Mike Miller is on active duty.

Welcome and Introductions

Members and staff were welcomed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – March 10, 2020 – Emailed Prior

Chris Pelton moved to accept the CEAC March 10, 2020 minutes as written; supported by Jonathan Eppley; motion accepted unanimously. 11:06 a.m.

CTE Program Updates

◇ Program Enrollment Trends

Dale Horowski, West Shore ESD CTE, reported that the enrollment trends over all are down about 17%. There is still a high demand and a wait list for Construction, Auto; there is reduced demand in Allied Health and Criminal Justice. The students that are here are VERY committed and engaged. Zero issues with mask compliance. Student with disabilities numbers have stayed the same, thereby increasing the overall percentage of those students.

◇ COVID-19 Adjustments

West Shore is in Phase 4 and having 100% face-to-face instruction. There are lots of physical distancing changes for group projects. There is enhanced cleaning and sanitation before and after class sessions. West Shore has been terrific in accommodating the needs of students and staff.

They are working on creative approaches to field trips, guest speakers and eighth and tenth grade visits to the Tech Center. Work Based Learning is still ongoing but on a case-by-case basis. There are a lot of restrictions.

Teachers are working hard to get as much curriculum as possible in our Learning Management System so they can continue if face-to-face is suspended. This system is being used now for students who are in a two-week quarantine. This is also being used for the Manistee County Schools who are not sending students to CTE on Fridays due to a weekly early release day. This is really pushing the teachers to up their tech skills.

Bill Kratz mentioned that individuals with technical skills, either electrical or mechanical are in high demand by manufacturers; the automation, robotics and industry 4.0 trends are very much in the future.

MWWC Healthcare Employer Led Collaborative Update

Merri Bennett explained that the Health Care Collaborative met virtually on September 22, 2020 with 17 persons in attendance. The group reviewed data on health care exits that have occurred during the pandemic for those who have gone through the WIOA program and have found employment. The data illustrated 11 persons who had exited training and went to work in one of the collaborative member organizations. In each case, the starting wage was considerably higher than their previous job. The Collaborative will work toward submitting an RFP which will facilitate assistance with marketing efforts for people to migrate into health care professions. The goal of the collaborative is to develop a pipeline of talent for high demand jobs.

MiSTEM Update

Lisa Wininger, Regional Director for MiSTEM Network, explained that it is the Network's mission to serve the educational, business and nonprofits sector by planning and implementation of measures related to STEM education and careers. Lisa discussed her efforts to make connections with businesses that are looking for educational content and outreach concerning their current and future employment needs. She also presented a proposed program to encourage entrepreneurship in middle and high school students, building from programs from groups like Junior Achievement and 4-H; creating a Young Entrepreneurs Program with an annual opportunity for students to present their proposals and be recognized through an award process. Lisa can be reached at lwinger@wsesd.org for questions or to discuss collaborations.

MiCareer Quest 2021

Jonathan Eppley explained that Michigan Works! West Central is in the beginning stages of planning the 2021 MiCareer Quest which will be held virtually. They are watching other MWAs as they organize their virtual events this year to get ideas. Many of these events have historically been scheduled for the fall and some MWAs have canceled the event altogether.

A neighboring MWA is utilizing an online platform called VFairs for their Career Quest and have offered to let us partner with them to host our own event using the same platform. It looks nice and would provide a great interactive option for students, however, it is quite pricy. So West Central is looking at some other more cost-effective ideas.

Jonathan explained that West Central recently had some internal position changes and he has shifted out of Business Services which organized the Career Quest last March. However even in his new role he will continue to take the lead and will be relying heavily on the Business Services team to recruit participating businesses and sponsors.

Correction Officer Position – GEO/CTE Program Collaboration Discussion

Shelly explained that Tracy Johns, Facility Administrator at GEO North Lake Correctional Facility has asked to have an opportunity to discuss with the ISDs how they can partner with the CTE Corrections Program to help with their talent needs. Tracy and Shelly had one initial conversation about this and she is anticipating it will be a great discussion on how GEO can go in and talk to the Corrections students a couple times a year and recruit those who are not interested in going onto Post-Secondary education. Shelly offered to take the lead on this.

Other Business

Round the Table

- » Christmas, Christy – WSCC – have 12 students in EMT and Paramedic training, they should complete in the Spring of 2021.
- » Gaines, Tamera – Talent Investment Agency – MICA Second Quarterly Meeting was rescheduled from October 6, 2020 to November 4, 2020. She also asked if GEO offered any relocation incentive for Corrections Officers. Shelly said she didn't think they were. Tamera also mentioned that the LEO is offering the opportunity for virtual job fairs.
- » Gandhi, Nicholas – Labor Market Information (DTMB) – this summer statewide projections were released for 2018-2028 for both occupations and industries. They will soon be releasing an apprenticeship dashboard sometime before the end of the year which will house statewide, regional and occupational data.
- » Marek, Ron – Reed City Group – the Reed City Group continues to do well despite the COVID-19 challenges. Employment is up to 140 and they are having difficulty finding employees. Ron also gave a shout out to Mike Miller who is serving our Country and is no longer in Hawaii but in California working his way back to Michigan.
- » Pelton, Chris – Union #174 – working through process for Apprenticeships, started with about 300 applicants down to 100+.
- » Sanchez, Tracy – Fremont Public Schools – Fremont Adult Education is now up and running. They are working by appointment at the Michigan Works! Centers in Big Rapids, Newaygo and Reed City. Fremont Quest is open as well, no appointment needed at this time. It is good to have students back in front of us.

Next Meeting March 9, 2021 via Zoom

Discussion followed as to keeping the same time or changing it – Chris Pelton suggested perhaps 10:00 a.m. instead of right in the middle of the day. Shelly suggested 9:30 a.m., she will send out information later when it is closer to the day of the meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.