

**BERRIEN, CASS, & VAN BUREN
CAREER & EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
August 18th, 2022
Michigan Works! Hybrid Meeting**

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present:

Chris Machiniak (virtual) Guz (virtual), Ken Flowers (virtual), Jay Bauer (virtual), Bob Kara (in-person)

Members Absent:

Mikki Spagnoli, Laurie Hasse, Robert Smith, Debbie Lull, Allie Knapp, Robert Smith, Cody Korfmacher, Bob Kara, Diane Owen-Rogers, Mikki Spagnoli, Karen Reilly, Allie Knapp, John Fonash

Others Present:

Mark O'Reilly, Elizabeth Bernhardt

Michigan Works! Staff Present:

Mindy Watson

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m.

II. Introductions

Mindy welcomed all CEAC members and guests present with a roundtable of introductions and a brief synopsis of the meeting purpose for new members.

III. Presentations

Grand Rapids Manufacturing Expo: Mark O'Reilly, Director of Business, presented on a Manufacturing Expo held in Grand Rapids, MI. The Business Solutions team went to the expo to observe innovation in the manufacturing industry, as well as make connections that will help drive talent through the workforce pipeline. It was kept in mind that many of the employers could use the youth that MI Works! BCBV serves to help fill industry needs.

IV. Discussions

Career Pathway Day: Chris Machiniak stated that it is time to get back into the flow of face-to-face events. This will begin with the Career Pathway Day (CPD) held on October 28th from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm and will be held at Lake Michigan College. This event is targeted to ninth graders in the tri-county area. The committees have been formed and are working on their assigned project. During the first CPD meeting a quick after-action review was completed on the last in-person CPD held in 2019. The committee noted that there should be an orientation the night before the event and send out virtual volunteer packets. It was

also mentioned that more food options are needed, as well as more breakfast for employers and volunteers for the event. Subgroups will meet every two weeks and the entire group will meet every three weeks until the event.

V. Updates

Workforce Development Board: Mindy Watson, Sector Relations Manager gave a brief update on the Surgical Tech apprenticeship in partnership with Spectrum Lakeland Health. Currently there are six students in the apprenticeship program. There is a plan to start new cohorts in Fall of 2023. Michigan Works! BCVB business team helped the MiLEAP program hit a program deliverable by contacting approximately 190 employers, explaining what the program has to offer. MI Works! BCVB had the first in-person job fair since the start of COVID-19. It was quite a success with 148 attendees and over twenty employers and agencies were in attendance, with some attendees receiving job offers on the spot.

Business Solutions Director, Mark O'Reilly, indicated that funding for education will be aggressive to reach parents and students about career pathways that are high-skill, high-wage, in-demand careers. Mark went to the UP for a conference to learn about apprenticeships and best practices. Ken Flowers stated that he would like to speak further with Mark about apprenticeships.

Community College Updates: Ken Flowers announced that he would be leaving his current position to become the Provost at Lake Michigan College. He is on board with assisting with Career Pathway Day and will help to secure the venue for the event. Ken also stated that there is new programming in the healthcare arena and will share out in the future.

Employer Partners: Jay Bauer stated that Eagle Technologies is remarkably busy and shorthanded on staff. The business has taken on ten new apprentices and are growing their workforce organically. The ideal employee needs to be able to think critically and be dependable. New customers to Eagle technologies are wanting to pandemic proof their operations, and the company is working to deliver solutions to customer demands. Jay also mentioned that there are other opportunities in other sectors for the organization.

Secondary School Updates: No updates to report.

VI. Member/Public Comments

Bob Kara asked if there are enough manufacturer's that have signed up for Career Pathway Day and offered to reach out to various trades if needed. Mindy Watson stated that letters to employers that participated in the event previously have been sent out by the business and industry CPD committee. Then letters will go out to potential new partners to ensure there are enough employers committed to the event.

There was discussion as to how to structure meeting times throughout the year. The goal being to align with the school year calendar. Future CEAC Meetings will be held in the months of August, November, March, and June.

Next Meeting Date

The committee will meet on November 10, 2022, from 9-10am. Virtual and in-person options will be available.

