



**NEMO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

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**NEMO Workforce Development Board (WDB)  
Employer Engagement Committee Meeting  
April 9, 2019**

**Members Present**

Jim Kolve  
Les Barber

**WDB Staff**

Diane Simbro  
Sharon Hillard

**Members Absent**

Corey Mehaffy  
Diane Noah  
Dennis Gill  
Mac Wilt  
Stephen Garner  
Darin Arnsmeier  
Glenn Eagan  
Annette Sweet  
Bryan Barnes  
Gabe Suddrath

**Guests**

Erica Davis  
Janet Hickey  
Julie Rogers  
Jeanne Savel  
Glenn Eagan (CLEO)  
Mark Forster  
Rita Brown  
Belinda Ames  
Kim Cull  
Susan McKnight  
Don Smith  
Bryan Trappe  
Sheree Prebe  
Dana Keller

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Chairperson Jim Kolve called the April 9, 2019 Employer Engagement Committee Meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. at the Missouri Job Center-Hannibal in Hannibal, MO.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken and a signature sheet was signed by those attending. Two committee members were present, and a quorum was not established. Eighteen individuals participated in the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Dana Keller moved to approve the agenda. Julie Rogers seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dana Keller moved to approve the February 13, 2019 Meeting minutes. Sheree Prebe seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

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## **INTRODUCTIONS OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS**

Everyone introduced themselves.

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN REPORT**

Jim said according to many publications, the hottest topic right now in the workforce development world is the future of work. How will jobs be impacted by the high-speed pace of technology and how will we prepare this future workforce? Although technology is changing some jobs, jobs aren't necessarily disappearing. We will still have a skills gap and these changes are putting a new lens on talent preparation. He noted that we have 7.3 million jobs and 6.3 million people looking for work.

Jim shared an article titled "*The Need to Connect: Students in Rural U.S. Struggle Accessing Technology, Hurting Their Ability to Learn*". The report showed that rural students were almost twice as likely as non-rural students to state that their internet access was unpredictable. However, at school there were no substantial differences. Also, rural and non-rural students had differing access to devices both at school and at home. Rural students reported somewhat less access to a laptop or a desktop computer at home compared to non-rural students. He said we need to get the word out that rural communities need adequate access to technology in order to have equal access to educational opportunities. Diane said when she met with the Governor, she said the biggest barriers to our rural communities are broadband and transportation. She was told they were working to address those issues but we certainly need to continue to make our needs known.

Jim said he felt the region was doing a good job in working to address the needs of healthcare in the area. The region was also working hard to address the needs of justice involved individuals through apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeship, training programs, etc. He noted that the Sheet Metal Workers Local 36 recently found a key to reaching kids by collaborating with the Troy Buchanan High School Shop program for HVAC training while constructing a home that will later be sold to help fund further school Shop programs.

### **PROJECT/APPRENTICESHIP UPDATE**

Diane provided an update regarding projects with Probation and Parole and the Bowling Green Correction facility. She said there was a group of farmers needing workers and plans were underway to develop some apprenticeships within agriculture and livestock producers. There were many pieces to the puzzle to get the apprenticeships going including issues with being able to provide services within the correction facilities. She noted that the Central Region was now able to use WIOA funds to pay for training within the facilities and they have developed a vetting process that they will share. Changes needed to occur to make this partnering work. Using State computers for training must be vetted. The Job Centers are

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getting into the facilities and she believed the Northeast would get one as well. It was stated that the Vandalia facility was now training individuals at a local nursing home.

**NCRC-UPDATE ON COUNTY PROGRESS**

Rita Brown provided a handout and reviewed the progress of the Work Ready Community Initiative. Marion, Ralls, Monroe, Adair, Knox, Warren, Lincoln, Montgomery and Randolph were all certified. The presentation ceremony for Marion County was in the planning process. She believed Lewis County would be completed when the April numbers were released. Shelby County only needed 10 and she asked for ideas on how to meet those numbers. They were working with Scotland and Schuyler Counties to get things going there. Pike County would be testing in May. She plans to check with Macon County to see what is going on there. Rita said the grant funds for testing had to be completed May 31<sup>st</sup>. She noted that getting all of the schools to require their seniors to participate was key.

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

Don Smith mentioned that a Job Center Satellite had been placed in Clayton, Missouri and the Job Centers are now able to provide on-site workshops.

Diane said Janice Robinson with NECAC and she would be providing a presentation regarding services at the 45<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court April 9<sup>th</sup>. She also stated that she would send information to everyone regarding the SBA Rural Strong Workshop scheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Tri State Development Summit being scheduled for June, and the Tri State Summit scheduled for October 24-25<sup>th</sup> in Quincy, IL.

Susan McKnight mentioned that there was a backlog of Green Card request and this was causing an issue.

Kim Cull said 160 job seekers and 52 employers participated in Hannibal's Spring Job Fair. She shared their survey results which indicated that it went very well. Their Fall Job Fair is scheduled for October 10, 2019. Erica said they had held their last of four SkillUp events in Hannibal. She noted that they were having difficulty getting people to attend.

Belinda Ames said about 40 employers and 150 job seekers attended Kirksville recent job fair. She said they had lots of jobs available in Kirksville. Their next hiring event will be for retail and it is planned for June. They will also host their fall job fair in October. Mark Forster noted that staff was working hard to bring in customers for SkillUp.

Janet Hickey said on June 6 they held their SkillUp event in Troy.

Lesa Barber announced that the Reverse Job Fair for people with disabilities is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on June 6<sup>th</sup> at the Hannibal LaGrange University. Employers will have an opportunity to learn about the advantages of hiring people with disabilities and be provided sensitivity training. Job

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seekers will participate in a Boot Camp prior to the event to prepare and will set up booths to present their skills to the employers.

**NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION**

The next meeting was scheduled for June 11, 2019 at the Kirksville Job Center.

**ADJOURN**

Dana Keller moved that the meeting be adjourned and the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:45 a.m.

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