

**Minutes of the  
Q1 Workforce Development Council  
Wednesday, March 15, 2023  
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
via TEAMS meeting**

**Members present:** Dave Farnsworth, Pat Bertagnolli, Becca Cruger, Kellie Carlson, Cindy Griffin, Lyn James, Howard Klug, Perry Lubbers, Matt Marshall, Katie Ralston Howe, Stan Schauer, Damian Schlinger, Erica Thunder, Wayde Sick, Taya Spelhaug, Jim Upgren

**Guests present:** Brenda Schmidt

**Staff present:** Phil Davis, Janna Pastir, Sherri Frieze

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**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Dave Farnsworth, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. welcoming members and guests. Sherri Frieze conducted the roll call.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion:** It was moved by Kellie Carlson, seconded by Becca Cruger, to approve the October 26, 2022 Special meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

**Motion:** It was moved by Damian Schlinger, seconded by Becca Cruger, to approve the December 1, 2022 Q4 WDC Minutes. Motion carried.

**Motion:** It was moved by Wayde Sick, seconded by James Upgren, to approve the December 1, 2022 Q4 WDC and K12 Joint meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

**WIOA POLICY UPDATE/OTHER**

**Phil Davis**

The Department of Labor (DOL) will conduct an audit th 3<sup>rd</sup> week in August and will review policy and procedures for WIOA. The four policies Phill presented to the council were pre-approved by the administrative committee and reviewed by the executive committee.

- **Adult Dislocated Worker Funding** – language modifications from the Dislocated Worker Policy to the Adult Dislocated Worker Policy were made.
- **Common Exit** – no changes
- **Data Validation** – auditing of policies and validating. Language modifications to the policy were made.
- **Individual Training Account** – no changes

**Other:**

- Job Service ND held a virtual job fair on March 14<sup>th</sup>; a multi-industry fair with 200 attending, and 70 employers attending. The next job fairs will be hosted in the next 6 weeks by Dickinson, Minot, Fargo, Williston, Grand Forks, and Devils Lake.
- Job Service ND *Job Pod* has held three podcasts so far.
- February job openings – 17,000, with Cass County job openings at 4,800; Burleigh County job openings at 2,800; and Grand Forks County job openings at 1,400.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATES BY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE

### **COMMERCE – Katie Ralston Howe**

#### **HB 1018** Department of Commerce Appropriations

- Regional Funding: \$20M + 1 FTE request; \$15M House + 1 FTE
- Talent Attraction: \$25M + 1 FTE; \$8M House + 1 FTE
- Technical Skills Training Grant: \$2M; House \$2M
- Automation Workforce Grant: \$5M; House \$5M
- ARPA Carryover Authority
- House Added: \$2M for New American Workforce Training & Internship Grant

#### **HB 1398** Authorizes DPI to provide grants for adult computer operations & cybersecurity courses

#### **SB 2142** Create an Office of Immigration in Commerce

#### **SB 2184** Legislative management study regarding occupational and professional regulation by the state

#### **SB 2249** Relating to the efficiency of administration of occupational boards & to provide a report to legislative management

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### **DOCR – Diversity & Cultural Competency – Erica Thunder**

- 2023 Indian Education Summit, July 6 – 7. Tribal Representation for public schools, BEI and tribal colleges.

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### **CTE – Wayde Sick**

#### **HB 1019** NDCTE Appropriations Bill

- 2 additional FTEs (asked for 4)
- \$4M for cost to continue (current ask)
- \$8M\* for new and expanding programs (asked for \$20M, Governor included \$10M)
- \$500,000\* to fund Career Advisors (asked for \$3M)
- \$1.5M\* to fund Work-based Learning Coordinators (asked for \$3M)
- \$200,000 added to Emerging Technology (didn't ask for, the bill carrier added it)
- The CDE budget was zeroed out because if SB2269 passes, it will move over the DPI.
- The \$40M\* for overage/inflationary costs was zeroed out, but I was informed this will come back on the Senate side, once the March revenue forecast comes out.
- The \$20M for additional CTE Center Capital projects was zeroed out. This will be discussed after crossover
- The \$2M increase to TrainND was not included.

#### **HB 1178** Higher Ed, Private, Parochial, and/or Private Sector to be represented on a CTE Board.

#### **HB 1199** NDCTE with loan authority to carry out the CTE Capital Projects Program.

#### **HB 1232** Continuation of the Legacy Fund earnings framework in 2021.

#### **HB 1382** State Scholarship to be used for Registered Apprenticeship expenses.

#### **HB 1519** Appropriate \$1M to NDCTE, grant out for UAS workforce training

#### **SB 2145** Emerging Digital Academy to operate without national accreditation.

#### **SB 2170** Minor under the age of 18 to be on a construction site with parental approval.

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### **DPI - Jim Upgren**

#### **HB 1219 & SB 2258** Both relate to retired teachers able to come out of retirement to teach in critical need areas without disruption to retirement benefits - Both passed

#### **HB 1240** Career Builders Scholarship & Loan Repayment – Defeated House

#### **HB 1305** ASVAB & other Choice Ready indicators with State Scholarship – Passed House

#### **HB 1382** State Scholarship to be used for State Apprenticeship – Passed House

#### **HB 1451** Increase amount of the State Scholarship – Defeated House

#### **SB 2032** Paraprofessional to Teacher Grants – Passed Senate

#### **SB 2033** Teacher student loan forgiveness for teachers in the 5 most critical need teaching areas - Passed Senate

#### **SB 2340** Related fields to serve in schools & count towards the student to counselor ration – Passed Senate

**DPI Adult Education - Stan Schauer**  
**SB 2013** – NDDPI Appropriations Bill

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**Voc. Rehabilitation - Damian Schlinger**  
**BUDGET**

- Pre - Employment Transition Students – will have \$1M more to expand career exploration services for schools – we can take this duty off the existing school staff and outsource it for free.
- Senior Community Service Employment Program – help train workers 55 and older and reintroduce to the workforce – let any business know looking for help that we pay these workers as they work at your business to gain skills.
- Independent living centers asking for more funding outside of the voc rehab bill.

**HCR 4004** Study transportation barrier for people w/disabilities – often this is the only barrier that exists for a person to work, not talent, not skill, not dedication, just getting there because due to their disability.

**HB 1169** Parent, spouse, guardian, caregiver can park in accessible parking spaces.

**HB 1244** Customized employment/supported employment tax credit for businesses – 74 took advantage last biennium and cap of 100 has been removed, no sunset. Will be able to help as many businesses as possible find employees.

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**NDJS – Pat Bertagnolli**  
**HB 1016** – Job Service Appropriations Bill

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**NDUS - Katie Ralston Howe for Chancellor Hagerott**

**HB 1003** - Support to maintain viable construction projects, freeze tuition, and provide for pay raises to mitigate inflation (which is a massive challenge, to both staff/faculty retention)

**HB 1241** Workforce Innovation Fund

**SB 2197** Oil Workforce Scholarship

**HB 1379** Legacy Streams Bill

**DIRECTION OF WDC**  
**Chairman Dave Farnsworth**

The strategic direction of the council over the next two years will be discussed at the next WDC meeting in June that will include, but not limited to:

- A look at the current recommendations, what were considered with action taken and which recommendations were not considered.
- Collect more data for stronger recommendations.
- Look at CTE Centers that will be built with the impact and if further encouragement is needed.

**NEXT STEPS**  
**Katie Ralston Howe**

The next meeting will be a legislative recap, that will look at the WDC recommendations that are aligned with the agencies that are to take the lead on those recommendations. The council will continue to work on how to engage with those agencies to move toward progress and conversations.

The In Demand Jobs List will be reworked again this year, involving the Commerce Department, Job Service and LMI, to be approved for the January 2024 timeframe.

**OTHER**

**Dave Farnsworth**

Dave spoke of the NGA Winter Symposium that he and Katie attended in February. Los Angeles, CA and Seattle, WA presented at the symposium to be the host city for the 2023 NGA Summer Symposium. Katie's presentation highlighted the city of Fargo. North Dakota was chosen and Fargo will be the host city for the 2023 NGA Summer Symposium. The Governor will be in attendance. Katie will keep the council in the loop as the planning begins for the 2023 summer conference.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further discussion, motion was made by Matt Marshall, seconded by Kellie Carlson. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.