



County of Mercer Workforce Development Board

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Virgen Velez
Acting Director

Brian M. Hughes
County Executive

Keith Secret
Chairperson

WDB Advanced Manufacturing Committee ♦ Chairperson: Scott Needham

January 9, 2023 ♦ 2:00 p.m. (Via Zoom) ♦ Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Scott Needham (Princeton Air), **Larry Banks** (NJMEP), **Keith Secret** (Kinetics Industries, Inc.), **Darren Stewart** (MC Economic Development)

Staff: Virgen Velez

Welcome

Chairperson Scott Needham welcomed the group.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes for November 14, 2022

Corrections: Scott Elliott was not at the 11/14/22 meeting. Remove from the minutes.

Motion was made by Keith Secret and seconded by Scott Needham. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

Update: MC One Stop Activities – Virgen Velez

Youth Career Awareness Activities

- Career Fair
 - Provide information on training opportunities to target young people who are graduating in June 2023, but are not collegebound; all youth ages 18-24 and adults will be welcome
 - Construction trades, training providers, NJMEP, MCTS and MCCC will be invited to participate
 - It will tentatively be held at the Cure Arena to be held from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. to encourage parents to attend
 - Marketing will be key to the success of above activities
 - Target date will be last week of May/1st week of June
 - It was suggested having an event that will potentially draw youth i.e. (Drone racing) or similar activity to get youth excited – this will be explored
 - A subcommittee, with members from all committees, will be formed to work on this project
 - Virtual Career Awareness Information Session - Information to be held virtually, mimicking the career fair information

The NGO (Notice of Grant Opportunity) for the SYEP was released last Friday. There was a brief discussion as to the possibility of having an in-person “job fair” as a means of matching youth to a worksite in lieu of the Youth Team making the matches.

The consensus was that it was a good idea to restart the “placement fair” for this year’s program. All youth selected for participation in the program would be guaranteed a job but may not necessarily be at their first choice.

Update: MCCC

*Laura Sosa sent the update below

- Spring semester will begin on January 20th
- Michael Hanna’s partnership working with the local robotics has resulted in a lot of interest from Ewing High School whose students are registering for classes at MCCC for credits
- Michael is still teaching interested students from TCHS; one student will be taking evening class at MCCC
- MCCC is moving ahead with a partnership with NJMEP (more information at future meeting)

Update: NJMEP - Larry Banks

- New programs are being developed for high school students and any other interested individuals
 - CAD design, 3-D printing and basic skills for tools/mechanics should be available in April
- Invitations for Manufacturing Day will be sent to the committee
- NJMEP is offering OSHA certifications to students; offerings will be expanding based on companies’ needs
- Companies will be asked for their onboarding plans to be able to assist students be better prepared for the hiring process
- Training times (day/eve) by NJMEP is flexible; hybrid options also available

Member Discussion

Mercer County Small Business grant program and the Small Business Investment program will be forthcoming. Information will be sent to the municipalities. Funds will be allocated according to a federal formula.

Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Next Meeting Dates – 2nd Monday (2 p.m.) on bi-monthly basis through the end of PY 2022.

March 13, 2023 ◇ May 8, 2023