



County of Mercer
Workforce Development Board
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Anthony Carabelli, Jr.
Director,
Economic Development

Virgen Velez
Acting Director,
Workforce Development Board

WDB Advanced Manufacturing Committee ♦ Chairperson: Scott Needham

January 8, 2024 2:00 p.m. ♦ Zoom Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

Scott Needham, Chair, (Princeton Air); **Keith Secrest** (Kinetics Industries); **Anthony Carabelli** (MC Economic Development); **Dr. Laura Sosa** (MCCC)

WDB Staff: Virgen Velez

Welcome & Introductions

Chair Scott Needham opened the meeting at approximately 2:00 p.m. and welcomed the group. Larry Banks joined for a minute to let everyone know he would not be able to attend.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes - September 11, 2023

Motion was made by Keith Secrest and seconded by Scott Needham. Motion passed and minutes were approved as submitted.

Update: One Stop Activities - Virgen Velez

Summer Youth Employment (SYEP) Program

- Level of Service (LOS) of 110 but served 130 youth
- Young people earned an average of \$3,000.00 throughout the summer
- 53 employer partners

Job Fair - October 2023:

- 80 employers and about 350 job seekers
- Information on training services
- Next job fair- May 2024

Encourage people to go into healthcare and other trades besides CDL

Update: MCCC - Dr. Laura Sosa

- Discussions at MCCC regarding how to proceed with advanced manufacturing - looking towards more certificate offerings
- Looking into providing more credit bearing & non-credit micro-credentials
- New Jersey Council of Community Colleges has a workforce arm; offering a scholarship \$5,000 per student, noncredit or credit, related to manufacturing or engineering
- Feasibility of short-term OJT for those who graduate with the scholarship
- Looking at the requirements for jobs in hiring instructors at MCCC
- Possibility of a Professional Studies degree where students who have specialized skills i.e. HVAC, plumbing, electrical, etc. and job experience and could receive credits

Scott reported their first apprentice that graduated through the program& will continue to earn stackable credentials

Update: County Economic Development - Anthony Carabelli

- Three sources of ARPA funding; in the process of evaluating new loan programs (2-3% interest rate) to get programs to last longer than 4-6 months
- Shared statistics on new jobs in the County - warehouse and transportation: over 9,000 new jobs; temp and administration positions over 7,500 new jobs; professional and technical service 2,300 new jobs; life sciences and technologies; retail is still struggling

PY 2023 Goals: Membership

- Increased Committee membership continues to be one of the major goals

Announcements/Events

Meeting Adjournment/Next Meeting: Meetings will be held quarterly

May 13, 2024