



County of Mercer Workforce Development Board

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Virgen Velez
WDB Acting
Director

Dan Benson
County Executive

Keith Secrest
Chairperson

WDB General Board Meeting ♦ Chairperson: Keith Secrest

July 30, 2024 12:00 p.m. ♦ Zoom Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

Keith Secrest, Chair (Kinetics Industries); **Anthony Carabelli** (Mercer County Director of Economic Development); **Virgen Velez** (MCOTES, WDB); **Matthew Carey** (MCTS); **Melissa Tenzer** (CEO Dress for Success); **Joseph Claffey** (MCCC); **Dawn Paquette** (NJM Insurance Group); **Scott Elliot** (Disabilities Chair); **Lesley Jack** (DVRs); **Latoya Wilson** (YIC); **Iliana Ivanov** (Mercer County Business Rep); **Umesh Naik** (DOL)

WDB Staff: Virgen Velez

Welcome & Introductions

Virgen Velez opened the meeting at 11:57 a.m. and welcomed the group.

Latoya made a motion for the approval of minutes, Scott Elliot seconded the motion.

Mercer County Technical Schools

- Success stories with hiring their own student from their program
- Summer camp expanded to 6,7 & 8th graders
- Expanding the program, they got double the participants than they got last year
- 2 major programs coming up for the 2024/2025 school year:
 - o Culinary program putting in a restaurant bistro
 - o Updating STEM equipment and labs
- Full time director is now there, Al Mumford
- Adding work placement component to the adult program, and talk of scholarships
- Strategic Plan; finished year 1 and moving into year 2
- Post-secondary program, got \$1.4 million grant for special services in schools
- Focusing on 18 to 21-year old's in secondary program
- ARC special services, 5-year lease with MCCC
- One Stop/WDB interested in helping with possibly funding students

Mercer County Community College

- Recently identified as a Hispanic serving institution
- Solar Panel Installation class was added that teaches OSHA 10

- First week is OSHA 10
- Located in Trenton
- Reentry and can come in at any level
- 4 companies

Economic Development

- 0% loan program; second phase of which was dedicated funds from ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act)
- Looking at other ways to fund businesses through ARPA
- Some funds still left to use for possibly up to 10 more businesses for the year

WDB Issues/Updates

- MOU has been signed by all partners in the county
- DOL comprehensive review has been finished
- RFP's for TANF, GA, OSO and OSY have been completed and approved
- Literacy Committee chair being replaced
- Collaborate more with college for Spanish classes
- SYWEP: 140 youth and 47 employers
- SETC: give them WDB list and budget, minutes on the website
- Motion to accept for submission by Matt, second by Melissa, all in favor
- More customer influx and more participants in orientations

Healthcare

- Alex Fehlman and Anna Katanzaro have joined their team

YIC

- Summer Program: 140 students enrolled and 47 employer partners
- Training improvement

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 29, 2024 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.