



County of Mercer Workforce Development Board

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Virgen Velez
Acting Director

Dan Benson
County Executive

Keith Secrest
Chairperson

WDB Youth Investment Council

September 9, 2024 ♦ 2:00 p.m. ♦ Zoom Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

Keith Secrest, Scott Needham, Laura Sosa (Mercer County CC), Jen Kaklamanis, Gonzalo Perez, James Chambers, Chris Estevez, Anthony Carabelli, Douglas Cooley

WDB /One Stop Staff: Virgen Velez

Welcome & Introductions

Scott opened the meeting

Chris was welcomed as he will be taking over WDB Director and gave an introduction about himself

Review of June 9, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Gonzalo moves forward with the motion, Laura seconds the motion approving the minutes

One Stop

140 kids served this summer, more served than intended

Job and Career Fair October 16, 2024 3:30-6pm

Expand job fair beyond employers by involving trade schools

Scott mentions a maker and creators' event that he will look into

Mercer County

New Advanced Manufacturing Faculty: Douglas Cooley

Laura speaks on wanting to help students continue their career with micro-credentials after they graduate high school

The program will help them put things on their resume for when they graduate

MCCC has been working with Jim Harris for a meeting at NJ Industry on October 16 and give a tour of the lab

Douglas gives an introduction on his program and work he's done within advanced manufacturing

Discussion of engineering/welding equipment was discussed

Gonzalo discusses the bootcamps MCCC is now offering:

Bootcamp 1:

- advanced manufacturing:
- goal is to provide and prepare students for OSHA 10 Nims exam, safety, job planning, benchwork and layout skills
- 93 hours

Bootcamp 2:

- Goal is to prepare students to be trained for machinist positions in manufacturing
- 93 hours
- Need to find instructor

Economic Development Updates

Anthony updates that they are very busy and collaborating with various organizations

Partnering with New Jersey State Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Change the eligibility requirements for the last 6 loans if Commissioners approve

Announcements – Agency/Community Events

Next meeting: December 9, 2024