

**Meeting Minutes**  
**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

Thursday, June 12, 2025, from 1:30 – 5:00 p.m. CDT

Friday, June 13, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT

Dakota State University, Beacom PREMIER Athletics Complex, Heartland's Captains Club  
820 N. Washington Ave., Madison, SD

Chairman Lee Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Dawn Dovre called the roll. A quorum was present.

**Members Present:** Lee Anderson, Michelle Black, Dave Bonde, Dawn Dovre (proxy for Marcia Hultman), Carla Gatzke, John Herweh, Candy Klingensmith, Kim Ludwig, Janice Minder (proxy for Liza Clark), Hannah Sage, Laura Scheibe, Joel Sylvester, Amy Tlam, Keri Wientjes

**Members Absent:** Jon Mahan, Mark Rogers

**Others Present:** Ellie Anderson, Tara Bartekoske, Terri Cordrey, Kaitlin Foster, Janine Haaland, Jason Howell, Caitlin Kemnitz, Jennifer Keyes, Melodee Lane, Nikki Mehlhaf, Rita Nelson, Rebecca Ortmeier, Traiton Peck, Kendra Ringstmeyer, Brooke Rollag, Laura Smith-Hill, Lindsay Stroman, Holly Van Dyke, Aimee VanderFeen, Ashley Podhradsky, Cody Schroeder, Travis Lape, Breanne Lynch, Carmen Pacheco, Stephen Di Gioia, David De Jong, Adrian Ness, Mikhail Sands, Cally Anderson, Elli Anderson

**AGENDA ITEM C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 19, 2025**

John Herweh made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 19, 2025.

Laura Scheibe seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED.**

**AGENDA ITEM D. COMMUNITY-BASED CHILDCARE GRANT PROGRAM**

Hannah Sage, Senior Partner Relations Representative with the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED), discussed the partnership between GOED and the Department of Social Services to provide funding for planning and implementing community-based childcare solutions. Brooke Rollag, Director of Economic Development for Lake Area Improvement Corporation, shared how investing in Madison's childcare infrastructure has strengthened workforce development.

**AGENDA ITEM E. GATEWAY CERTIFICATES**

Dr. Janice Minder, Vice President for Academic Policy and Planning with the Board of Regents (BOR), discussed High School Dual Credit (HSDC) available to high school students and Dakota Dreams exploration summer camps. Janine Haaland, Policy and Planning Director with BOR, explained the certificates offered and the potential degree paths upon completion.

**AGENDA ITEM F. CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION LANDSCAPE**

Laura Scheibe, Director of Career and Technical Education (CTE) with the Department of Education, discussed how CTE courses cover a wide variety of careers and equip students with a variety of skills. Scheibe also introduced the new career cluster framework created from the standards revision, effective July 1, and how it aligns with industry needs.

**AGENDA ITEM G. LABOR MARKET INFORMATION**

Melodee Lane, Administrator of the Labor Market Information Center with the Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR), shared updates on occupational projections, high-demand high-wage careers, new Sioux Falls MSA definition, and sub-state projections.

**AGENDA ITEM H. COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Council member Carla Gatzke discussed childcare implementation in the Brookings community using local partnerships, the school district, and philanthropists. Council member Joel Sylvester shared the Sioux Falls childcare consortium's efforts. Members also discussed work-based learning opportunities and how businesses and schools can connect. Dr. Minder answered questions on the fast track to apply to state universities.

**AGENDA ITEM I. DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY: OVERVIEW + CAMPUS TOUR**

Dr. Ashley Podhradsky, Vice President for Research and Economic Development with Dakota State University (DSU), discussed the history of Dakota State University, the Teacher Apprenticeship Program's impact on South Dakota, the CybHER mission and after-school program, and the CyberSkills2Work workforce development program.

Rose O'Brien, Campus Visit Coordinator with DSU, guided Council members on a tour.

**AGENDA ITEM J. START TODAY SD COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE PANEL**

Tara Bartekoske, Apprenticeship Program Manager with DLR, facilitated a panel discussion of the Start Today SD Community of Practice. Discussion focused on how industry can share workforce needs and shortages, identify strategies to expand and bring awareness to apprenticeships, engage education and youth, and how businesses can support and partner in these efforts. Panelists included Terri Cordrey with Lake Area Technical College, Rita Nelson with Build Dakota Scholarship, Cody Schroeder with Midwestern Mechanical, and Travis Lape with Harrisburg School District.

**AGENDA ITEM K. START TODAY SD PATHWAY PARTNERS**

Caitlin Kemnitz, Apprenticeship Program Specialist with DLR, discussed how the Pathway Partnership initiative has grown with involvement from K-12 partners, technical colleges, state universities, and industry to create high-school-focused apprenticeships. Breanne Lynch, Career and Education Coordinator with Harrisburg School District, shared the apprenticeship journey of how students have explored careers while earning wages and attained nationally recognized credentials.

**AGENDA ITEM L. FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE EDUCATORS PARAPROFESSIONAL PILOT**

Carmen Pacheco, Labor Program Specialist with DLR, and Stephen Di Gioia, Employment Specialist with DLR, discussed the Foundation for Future Educators Paraprofessional Pilot and how the online coursework and learning experience were developed under the QUEST grant with Black Hills Special Services based on a request from industry.

**AGENDA ITEM M. TEACHER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM + DSU PARAPROFESSIONAL PATHWAY PARTNERSHIP**

Jason Howell, Apprenticeship Coordinator with DLR, and Dr. David De Jong, Dean of the College of Education and Human Performance with DSU, discussed how the Teacher Apprenticeship Pathway model was created and the school districts involved, how para students are recruited and can advance upon completion of courses, and how the program continues to expand to fill teacher shortages. De Jong also shared performance data and survey results of two cohorts and the success of pairing teacher apprentices with primary and secondary mentors.

**AGENDA ITEM N. COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

None.

**AGENDA ITEM O. SPONSOR + APPRENTICE PANEL**

Adrian Ness, Apprenticeship Program Specialist with DLR, facilitated a panel discussion consisting of apprenticeship sponsors and their apprentices. Sponsor discussion included how each business built their apprenticeship and why, how high school students are engaged and supported to advance in careers, and how success is measured, including investment results, life and practical skills gained, and recruitment. Apprentice discussion included how a day on the job looks, relationships built, and the benefit of earning while learning. Panelists included Amy Tlam with Howe Inc. and apprentice Mikhail Sands, Cally Anderson with Weller Brothers, and Nikki Mehlhaf with Freeman Regional Health Services and apprentice Elli Anderson.

**AGENDA ITEM P. A WORD FROM OUR "TAPPERS"**

Dr. David De Jong introduced five graduates of the Teacher Apprenticeship Pathway program to share their stories about deciding to join the program, the positive experiences and benefits, support from principals and teachers, job outcomes, and future goals.

**AGENDA ITEM Q. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Rita Nelson with Build Dakota Scholarship provided an update on the closure of Cimpl Foods in Yankton and thanked DLR for its response in assisting the dislocated workers. Nelson also commented about immigrants gaining residence in Yankton who will be losing work authorization and the impact.

**AGENDA ITEM R. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATES**

Dawn Dovre asked Council members for ideas on speakers and topics for the workforce track of the Governor's Office of Economic Development conference in February 2026. The next Council meeting is planned for September at the Sioux Falls One-Stop.

Chairman Lee Anderson called the meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m. CDT.