

## APPRENTICESHIP & INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

February 14, 2019

### Members Present

Jack Fisher, Chair  
Ralph Bingham, GC Library System  
Ranee Davidson, RCGC  
Mike Dugan, NJLWD  
Brian Mattei, County Apprentice Coordinator  
Michelle Shirey, WDB Director  
Alisha Thompson, DWD  
John Furfari, WDB Staff

Kim Alexander, GCIT  
Cindy Cliver, Abilities Solutions  
Robert DeMarco, NJLWD  
Stanley Hershey, DWD  
Jennifer Shaw-Knab, DVRS  
Melissa Eckstein, Gateway High School  
JaNea Wilson, NJLWD  
Bridget DiGiambattista, WDB Staff

### Members Absent

Sam Ferraino, Co-Chair  
Jeffrey Berger, Union  
Nicholas Burdick, USDOL  
Anthony DiFabio, Robin's Nest  
Lou Jiapello, Union  
James Robinson, Business  
Brigette Satchell, RCGC

Anthony Bellia, Business  
Tom Bianco, GC Economic Development  
Patty Claghorn, RCGC  
Michael Dicken, GCIT  
Peter Kaprielyan, Business  
Dan Ruotolo, Business

Jack opened the meeting at 8:30 am.

A motion to approve August 9, 2018 meeting minutes was made by A. Thompson, seconded by J. Wilson.

### **Old Business**

October was National Manufacturing month. Lamatek held an event at their facility and Tom & John attended.

### **New Business**

Business Retention – John reported we will be focusing on business retention efforts and will be scheduling 2-3 visits each week with businesses. The visits will be tracked on a spreadsheet, we will keep track of referrals. Michelle asked the spreadsheet be sent to all committee members so members can review retention efforts for the month and respond to any referrals made to their organization.

NJ Gains – Michelle stated the State would like the business partner to take lead but Gloucester County has a model where we are already connected with businesses, our businesses in GC want an intermediary to take the lead like Mid-Atlantic. JaNea stated Governor Murphy announced the approved GAINS grantees on Feb. 11. No business or higher education institution in South Jersey was awarded. Michelle asked JaNea to share the list with the committee.

Melissa reported they had applied for the YTTW grant and were not accepted. The Carpenter's Union separately listed them as one of their targeted schools for YTTW, so 10 of our students are participating with them. Michelle reported a meeting is scheduled to meet with MASCEC to discuss partnering for 2 companies interested in apprenticeship-Sarex & Wedgewood Pharmacy. Michelle asked Melissa if Gateway would like to be part of the program they are trying to develop with Sarex & Wedgewood, to which Melissa responded yes.

Business Outreach – Michelle asked if space could be created on the spreadsheet that allows committee members to add their own notes, which would allow information to be available prior to the meetings. Also, she would like a column added so if a partner would like to be connected to listed business, they

can let us know and connection can be made. John stated a 'comments' column will be added where notes/requests can be made.

Melissa stated this is good information for the schools to know that wind turbine is coming to this area so it can be discussed in science classes so the students know there is a possible career. Michelle stated in Oct. the State had the largest wind energy offering in the US. They are now vetting out companies and we would get the manufacturing division which is the highest paying wages and the most expensive parts of the wind turbine. Michelle stated she'll extend invitation to GCIA to speak at next Apprenticeship & Industry committee meeting to give update on the wind turbine facility. Michelle stated at future Apprenticeship & Industry meetings, she or Tom will provide business development updates.

Brian stated as the County Apprentice Coordinator he will be more than happy to help with apprentice questions. Kim stated they can help businesses make it easier to offer training whether it is at the community colleges, vocational schools, or evening school program. Kim stated GCIT has a very active adult evening school program that provides a related technical instruction and we can create new programs to meet employer needs.

Securing Our Children's Future Bond Act – Tom & Michelle were invited to GCIT recently to meet with M. Dicken and F. Keating to discuss how we will be interacting with business community and Workforce Development Boards. With this grant, they are planning on building a facility on the campus of RCGC and will be called The Academy of Advanced Manufacturing & Applied Technology. WDB will provide backup information (occupational needs, connection to businesses, etc.) for the grant and GCIT/RCGC will provide curriculum and education information for the grant. Michelle stated the next action item is to invite businesses in a talk with them about the curriculum and subjects that will be taught at this new academy and invite them to offer input so we are not training people for jobs that do not exist. This initiative is spearheaded by GCIT and RCGC, Workforce Development Board, & Economic Development are partners.

### **Updates**

RCGC - Randee reported in the past RCGC offered the technical studies program where an apprentice can earn 25 credits towards a degree. The High School Option Program (HSOP) was designed to provide high schools students with the opportunity to start taking college courses at a 65 percent discount off of Rowan College's (RCGC) tuition and per credit fees. Completed courses under the HSOP program can be applied to a RCGC associate degree program or easily transferred to other institutions of higher education.

GCIT – Kim reported from the Walmart Corp. grant funding, GCIT construction students have visited Concord Truss and will be visiting May Cabinet. Both Concord Truss and May Cabinet have offered job shadowing and paid internships. The welding and engineering students visited Holtec in Camden. In the spring they have planned trips for Ohio Technical College and Lincoln Welding in Cleveland, Ohio. They purchased curriculum supplies and equipment to support expansion of advanced manufacturing program and engineering academy. Students from Transportation, Construction, & Engineering programs participate in OSHA 10 training. They recently conducted 2 career awareness events for auto, collision & welding programs for 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. There will be a construction industry career day expo on May 29, 2019.

Brian reported those interested in electrical contractors license now must have to be a registered apprentice, same goes for plumbers and HVAC.

Gateway – Melissa reported they have been talking to Camden Youth Aviation and are developing an aviation program. Gateway 2 Careers - Rastelli Foods Group is sponsoring Diners Drive ins and Dives event on Feb. 28th at 6pm in our library showcasing our culinary students. The second event is Women's Empowerment Week highlighting women in male dominated fields March 4-7, 11-1pm in our library! Freeholder Simmons will be a moderator on March 5.

GCLS – Ralph reported the Innovation Studio opened last year on the campus of RCGC and is open to the general public to learn how to use the laser cutter and the 3D printer. They have staff available to help anyone learn to use the equipment. Michelle stated we will do a story for an upcoming newsletter. The Library has meeting room space available, can help with any type of research, and will work in collecting community information about Gloucester County.

A motion for adjournment was made by R. Davidson, seconded by B. Mattei.

The next meeting will be held May 9, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB Staff