

APPRENTICESHIP & INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

June 2, 2025

Members Present

Greg Davis, Chair
Kristi Linski, MASCEC
Karen Rodriguez, NJDOL
Alisha Thompson, DWD
Krista Lope, DVRS
Allison Spinelli, WDB Staff

Brett Guetens, DWD
Anthony Marino, Business
Michelle Shirey, WDB Director
JaNea Wilson, NJDOL
Judeline Marcellus, NJDOL
Shannon O'Brien, WDB Staff

Visitors

Heather Simmons, RCSJ
Josh Piddington, RCSJ
Megan Wolf, MASCEC

Candice Carter, MASCEC
Alicia Battaglia, Commissioner Aide

Greg opened the meeting at 8:30 am

Guest Speaker

Heather Simmons, VP CTE & WDB reported Dr. Fred Keating announced he will be leaving RCSJ as of June 30th. Dr. Brenden Rickards will act as interim President and Provost. Dr. Rickards is already Provost and Chief Academic Officer and shares the vision of the Present and board in terms of student focus and cares about workforce and CTE. She thanked Alice Smith & Greg Davis for taking on challenge for reinvigorating this committee and gathering industry representatives and workforce professionals to be part of this committee. The Workforce Development Board at RCSJ/Gloucester falls as part of the staff of RCSJ. The workforce development board is under the division of Career & Technical Education as well as a new department called Industry Engagement. We also have institutional effectiveness, the police academy and fire academy. Heather stated our division took the career track and technical studies program and operations and put them together which is a first for this campus. The industry engagement department is new for the college and our division with intentional overlap between what the workforce development board does in terms of industry engagement, what CTE does in terms of what they call business development and what department of industry engagement does. Dr. Candice Racite is the Associate Vice President for industry engagement and not only focus on making outreach to industry and building those relationships but focus on managing the relationships to expand across the entire institution. Heather reported there was a groundbreaking for construction trades at the CTE building and expect construction to begin this summer. This will be a 14,000 square foot addition focusing on welding, HVAC, plumbing, carpentry, electrical and mold remediation. The offices and instructional functions that currently take place in the CTE building will be physically moved to other locations on campus.

A motion to approve February 25, 2025 meeting minutes was made by A. Thompson, seconded by J. Wilson.

Revised Goals/Objectives and Action Items

Following initial meeting, a fourth goal and objective was added and reads: to collaborate with industry and unions to expand apprenticeship programs and create more. To the action steps we added: to conduct a minimum of two visits to schools to share the importance of apprenticeship and distribute new marketing materials and create ½ day workshop for perspective businesses to provide information about establishing apprenticeship programs.

A motion to accept updated additions to the goals/objectives and action items was made by J. Wilson, seconded by A. Thompson.

Marketing Update

Shannon provided update on draft flyer for businesses and employers to educate them on what registered apprenticeship is and how they can get involved. She also made sure to include in the flyer is exploring the difference between internship programs, pre-apprenticeship programs and apprenticeship programs as well as tax incentives. The flyer will explain the workforce development board is not the 'apprenticeship company' but the bridge between those interested in apprenticeships and the companies interested in receiving apprenticeship students. Another discussion will be about the QR code and if it will go to a contact form or to a website.

Look Ahead

Greg is working with Cleve Bryan, Chair of the WDB Youth Development Council about potential candidates for apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship for students from that program. He will be scheduling time to meet with Pavi Lakshminarayan, NJDOL Sector Strategist – Industry Partnerships as well as GCIT.

A motion for adjournment was made by J. Wilson, seconded by A. Thompson.

The next meeting will be September 23, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB Staff