



Region 3: Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI) Collaborative

Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2018

Kirtland Community College

DRAFT

Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Workforce Development Consent Items – these were discussed by the WDB members in attendance.

Presentations – presentations were provided on the Marshall Plan by Ed Koledo, Senior Deputy for Talent Development and on MiSTEM and Regional Marshall Plan Application Update by Jason Beatty, MiSTEM.

RPI Meeting Minutes – Motion by Collin Hoffmeyer, second by Jamie Huber to approve the meeting minutes with the amendment to show the unanimous vote with a motion Podjaske, second Huber to move \$436 from Marketing Mini-Grants to Administration and \$2,000 from Website to Administration. Motion carried.

Financial Review – Schnell summarized the financial report. Motion Huber, second Hoffmeyer to accept the financial report. Motion carried.

Talent Community/Economic Development Updates – Schnell mentioned that there will be a broadband update at the November RPI meeting. Schnell also updated the group on the recent meeting of the Regional Entrepreneurial team and the efforts to explore the opportunity to map entrepreneurial resources in the region using a web-based tool based upon the Up North Trails system and the same web architecture. Sara McCauley provided an update on the youth entrepreneurial RFP that is out there as well as the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) and the need to find schools to take advantage of the 50% match grant funding available through the RPI to provide for AdviseMI school advisors.

Talent Update - Collin Hoffmeyer presented an update on the MiCareerQuest planning process. Collin discussed the unique opportunity to have the free use of Moran's Industrial Arts Institute, which is the largest building available for 2019 and at no cost. Marisue Moreau and Steve Schnell mentioned the extensive effort undertaken to find an opportunity (location and/or transportation) for students in the southern portion of the region, having consulted with staff of the Region 7b Michigan Works. Marisue asked if there were any concerns about the event in 2019 being held at the location in Onaway with an event planning taking place for a 2020 event to be held farther south. No concerns were raised.

Group Discussion – Discussion was held on the barriers to getting more people involved in skilled trades. Points made include common myths and challenges:

- Parents aren't encouraging their children to go into the trades because "it's what I did and I want my kids to have a better life"
- The trades don't pay well – myth
- The students have a problem getting to training since it's not provided at the high school often or is after hours. Another comment was that they get to all their extra-curricular activities, why can't they get to the classes or internship? Are they not motivated? Are the parents not motivated?
- Minimum age of 18 due to workplace safety laws, limiting to younger students getting this education and training
- Suggested example of Grand Rapids Wheels to Work program
- How about a manufacturing summer camp for kids?

- Housing industry has housing for interns as part of another training program
- Solutions include spending a lot of hours in front of students to ensure they are getting the message. Takes a lot of work and consistent & persistent communications.

Other Business – There was none.

Public Comment – there were no public comments

Adjourn – meeting was adjourned at 2:08pm