



Advancing the Future of Business and Community

UPSTATE WORKFORCE BOARD YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING
December 8, 2020 3:30 P.M. Virtual Meeting

Guests Present:

Ms. Ann Angermeier
Mr. Brent Bishop
Ms. Dana Wood
Ms. Helen Merriweather
Ms. Erin Easler

Committee Members Present:

Ms. Erin Black
Mr. Jay Coffey
Ms. Theresa Perry
Ms. Carol Rogers
Mr. David Wall
Ms. Theresa Perry
Ms. Carolyn Rutherford
Mr. Evander Thomas

Welcome:

Mr. Evander Thomas, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Financial Update:

Mr. Brent Bishop, UWB CFO, reviewed the October youth program budget report with the committee. Ms. Helen Merriweather, ACHIEVE Director, gave additional information on how the program's fiscal agent manages the accounting. Mr. Bishop noted that Work-Based Learning is tracking well.

ACHIEVE Program Reports/Dashboards:

Ms. Merriweather reported that the ACHIEVE program is currently at 85 percent of its total enrollment between the counties that it serves. They are at 45 percent enrollment for the program year. She shared that Cherokee County is at 75 percent enrollment, and Union County is at 125 percent enrollment. Ms. Merriweather said that they are continuing morning and afternoon classes to help maintain social distancing. Van drivers are making more trips due to COVID-19 and spending from the gas line item has increased. She shared that the program received a grant from the Mary Black Foundation to restore the salaries of van drivers after they received a budget cut. She stated that \$7,200 in work experience has currently been spent and students will be doing CellBotics training in January. The committee held a discussion on COVID requirements for transportation and student enrollment.

Project for Outreach to Seniors

Ms. Dana Wood, UWB Associate Director, reminded the committee of discussions held at the last meeting regarding committee engagement. She shared that seniors are graduating and have not decided whether to go to college or enter the workforce. Ms. Wood shared a presentation from the College and Career Showcase and informed the committee that the event usually lasts two days and targets freshmen in all 3 counties. She shared that this year's event will be virtual and targets seniors as well.

The event will offer "Live Fridays" during the months of January- May, and students can interact with employers. Ms. Wood asked for volunteers from the committee to help run a virtual booth. The goal is for committee members to link students to resources offered by SC Works.

Ms. Erin Easler, SC Works Business Consultant, gave a demo of the virtual event platform. Ms. Wood shared that more details will be available once volunteers sign up, and she will put together a schedule before the holiday break.

Ms. Ann Angermeier, UWB Executive Director, suggested that committee members sign up for an hour slot. She also mentioned that volunteers could help connect students with resources to complete college applications, FASFA, or other tools to help prepare students for life after high school.

Performance Concerns

Ms. Wood shared the negotiated performance figures from last year and the current year. She explained that SC DEW would not let us factor in COVID during negotiations. She shared concerns on meeting/exceeding the new measures. Staff are considering requesting technical assistance from the state regarding the youth measurable skills gain goal.

Adjournment

With no further business or discussion from the floor, the meeting was adjourned 4:03 p.m.

The next meeting will be held February 16, 2021.