

MEETING SUMMARY

LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON
WORKFORCE EDUCATION EXCELLENCE

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

10:00 A.M.

Room 207, State Capitol

Little Rock, Arkansas

Senator Jane English, the Senate Co-Chair of the Legislative Task Force on Workforce Education Excellence, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON WORKFORCE EDUCATION EXCELLENCE IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Jane English, Senate Co-Chair; Senator Eddie Cheatham; Senator Lance Eads; Representative Sonia Eubanks Barker; Representative Rick Beck; Representative Dan M. Douglas; and Representative Dan Sullivan.

NON-LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON WORKFORCE EDUCATION EXCELLENCE IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Randy Henderson; Mr. Stephen Horton; Mr. Paul Rivera; Mr. Mike Rogers; and Mr. Greg Taylor.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE: Senator Alan Clark; Representative Ken Bragg; Representative Kim Hammer; and Representative Carlton Wing.

Minutes:

Without objection, the minutes of August 22, 2017, were approved as written.

Exhibit:

Exhibit C – 08/22/17 Minutes

Senator English introduced **Mr. Nate Klinck**, who will serve as facilitator for the meeting.

Mr. Nate Klinck, Vice President, Thomas P. Miller and Associates, Indianapolis, Indiana, was recognized. Mr. Klinck discussed his prior experience working with a task force convened by the governor of the State of Indiana to look at major systemic revisions that state needed to consider in order to better prepare students for future employment. He noted that the discussions of the Indiana task force focused on a talent development system, which would leverage partnerships, leverage work already being done, and further adopt models to cultivate talent needed to meet employers' present and future demands. He commented that outcomes in workforce development and talent development may not be seen for six months, a year, or more. He stressed the importance of looking at needs over short, medium, and long terms; and of developing a strategic planning process to work through the myriad of issues pertinent to Arkansas's workforce needs.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- clarification of variables in the unemployment rate,
- percentage of highly-skilled individuals who are working full-time vs. part-time, and
- transformation of the labor market.

Overview of Workforce Dynamics in Arkansas

Presenter:

Dr. Michael R. Pakko, Chief Economist and State Economic Forecaster, Arkansas Economic Development Institute (AEDI), University of Arkansas at Little Rock, was recognized. Dr. Pakko prepared four (4) reports for Committee members: 1) *Educational Attainment: Arkansas and its Neighbors*, 2) *Arkansas Post-Secondary Educational Programs*, 3) *Unemployment by Occupation--All Occupations in Arkansas*, and 4) *Arkansas-Statewide Long-Term Industry and Occupational Projections, 2014-2024*. Dr. Pakko, utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, *Educational Attainment and Occupational Growth in Arkansas*, summarized the major points of each of the four reports.

Contributors to the Discussion:

Mr. Rob Marek, Employment Assistance, Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

Ms. Shirley J. Johnson, Research Project Analyst, Labor Market Information Section, Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- ❖ basis for changing trends in job growth,
- ❖ correlation between goods producing jobs and service sector jobs,
- ❖ figuring attrition and retirement into projections,
- ❖ necessity for having some on-the-job training,
- ❖ necessity for employees to have basic jobs skills,
- ❖ training to monitor the machines that create materials,
- ❖ front-ending the necessary skills,
- ❖ gaps that exist between skills and education needed for key jobs,
- ❖ job sourcing,
- ❖ starting level at which to develop skills/talent,
- ❖ necessary critical skills, other than soft skills, for employees to have,
- ❖ technical skills around which there are significant gaps,
- ❖ understanding how to put things together with precision in the working process,
- ❖ building partnerships,
- ❖ people with skills who are not in the workforce,
- ❖ who has the responsibility for addressing the gaps in educating employees for the workforce,
- ❖ ten attributes important for skilled employees to have,
- ❖ exposing students to real workplaces,
- ❖ key industries on which to focus resources and efforts,
- ❖ “accelerated operator course,” and
- ❖ preparing students to make the best decisions, and concept of “career pathways.”

PowerPoint Presentation:

AEDI Educational Attainment and Occupational Growth in Arkansas

Handouts:

AEDI Arkansas Post-Secondary Educational Programs

AEDI Arkansas Statewide Long-Term Industry and Occupational Projections, 2014-2024

AEDI Educational Attainment and Occupational Growth in Arkansas

AEDI Educational Attainment: Arkansas and its Neighbors

AEDI Unemployment by Occupation – All Occupations in Arkansas

Initial Discussion of Significant Systemic Challenges and Opportunities

Presenter:

Mr. Nate Klinck, Vice President, Thomas P. Miller and Associates, Indianapolis, Indiana, was recognized.

Following up on his introductory remarks on developing a strategic planning process, Mr. Klinck posed key questions and ideas for consideration in moving forward:

- What is the system in Arkansas that is really responsible for addressing these gaps and ensuring that the gaps are filled?
- How does legislative action get directed?
- Engagement of partners; importance of employers in manufacturing and industry being at the table to provide navigation through the system.
- Kind of data and information required to measure the relative effectiveness of the system.

Other Handouts:

Arkansas Labor Market and Economic Report, 2016
Arkansas Workforce Statistics, Bureau Brief
Hot 45 Demand Occupations
Job Ready, September 2017
Key Questions for 9/20/2017 Meeting
Projected Employment Opportunities List, 2017-2018
Survey of Financial Programs, Bureau of Legislative Research
Workforce Development Task Force Survey, Memorandum

Next Scheduled Meetings:

Tuesday, October 17, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. at Maverick Transportation, North Little Rock
Wednesday, November 1, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. at Gentry School District Career and Technical Education Center, Gentry, AR
Monday, November 13, 2017, at 1:30 p.m. in the Old Supreme Court, State Capitol, Little Rock

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Approved: 11/13/2017