

---

## **Career Educational Advisory Council (CEAC)**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**May 16, 2022**

---

**CALL TO ORDER** – Committee Chair, Tim Staffen, called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. at Kalamazoo Regional Educational Services Agency (KRESA), 1819 E. Milham Rd, Portage, MI 49002.

#### **MW SOUTHWEST CEAC MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jim Berry (SJCISD)

Cameron Buck (KRESA-CTE)

Jerry Johnson (ISD-Calhoun)

David Maurer (PS-Humphrey Products)

Brian O'Donnell (Labor-IBEW Local 131)

Dr. Diane Owen-Rogers (MiSTEM)

Andrea Rainer (Huron Pottawatomi)

Dustin Scharer (BACC -CTE)

Jim Sertic (PS-Sertic Consulting)

Tim Staffen (CISD)

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

Kathy Olsen (MWSW)

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Lee Adams (WEUI)

Scott Cubberly (KCC)

John Fiore (MRS)

Rey Guzman (LEO-WD)

#### **MW SOUTHWEST CEAC MEMBERS ABSENT**

Paul Aivars (GOCC)

Dr. Dennis Baskin (KCC)

James Brylowski / James Callahan,  
(Labor-SW MI Building Trades)

Mitch Fowler (BCPS)

LaToy Green (Parent)

Windy Rea (Job Corps)

Tammy Schiller (CISD/CACC)

Ken Willcutt (Labor-Plumbers & Pipefitters  
& HVACR Local Union 357)

#### **INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Individuals present introduced themselves and the agency they represented.

#### **MINUTES**

**Motion made by Brian McDonnell and supported by Dave Maurer to approve the Michigan Works! Southwest Career Educational Advisory Council (CEAC) March 21, 2022 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by a consensus of members present.**

#### **ECONOMIC FORECAST**

Lee Adams, Director of Community Development at the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research gave a presentation focused on the local economic forecast for industries and jobs. Content included the development and attraction for talent supply; and economic conditions, forecast and occupational projections for talent demand. A copy of the PowerPoint was emailed to members following the meeting. Members with questions or those desiring additional information should contact Mr. Adams at [adams@upjohn.org](mailto:adams@upjohn.org) or 269-385-0409.

## MI STEM NETWORK UPDATE

Diane Owen-Rogers reported on upcoming professional learning opportunities. A list of the offerings, as well as a sign-up is available at

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1AhGOEtpZKBObNQGXPdtDhwQOWIzPRdlv1pqKXefb3Hg/edit>

Individuals may sign-up to receive the Southwest MiSTEM Newsletter at:

<https://airtable.com/shrLjYJamd7hhJTSO>

KRESA is the fiscal agent for the MiSTEM Advisory Council Action Area. This means that KRESA and SW MiSTEM will take leadership in stewarding Advisory Council funds allocated to mathematics, computer science, and science and engineering. There are 70 stakeholders across the State. They are working on a uniform plan.

## EDUCATION UPDATES

### Secondary Education

*Branch Area ISD* – Dustin Scharer reported on staffing changes at the Branch Area Career Center (BACC) and that he would be replacing Randy Sowles, representing the BACC and Career Technical Education on the CEAC.

*Calhoun County ISD* – Tim Staffen reported the Calhoun ISD has been working with Kellogg Community College to create a program for the State Apprenticeship Expansion (SAE) grant. Students would be dual enrolled with the CTE instructor focusing on skill hardening and KCC focusing on technical training. Employment would follow the apprenticeship model instead of an Early Middle College degree. Areas of focus include manufacturing, IT, and healthcare. Staff at Calhoun ISD are also conversing with the medical industry and early childhood partners to fill the pipeline in those industries.

*St. Joseph County ISD* – Jim Berry reported he replaced Tammy Cameron at St. Joseph County ISD. Two new CTE programs are being introduced, both will be held at Centreville High School. One is focused on Public Safety and the other is Advanced Healthcare. SJC ISD is also hiring staff for Career Prep Work-based Learning/ Instructor-Coach. The construction trades class won a competition in Lansing last week.

*Kalamazoo RESA* – Cameron Buck reported staff are deeply involved in the design phase for the proposed new CTE center for Kalamazoo County. Staff are working on identifying credentials for CTE programs, determining exactly what equipment will be needed, and reviewing the building layout and power needs. The groundbreaking is scheduled for September.

Cameron Buck also reported that volunteers are still needed for the MiCareerQuest scheduled to take place on May 17 & 18 at the Kalamazoo Expo Center. Volunteers are still needed, even if they only have a couple hours. Individuals may sign up at:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfaOx2EcHZ8AVWG\\_u2KHQPYC2DbDHRs5umR5m\\_Rm6JJwQEokQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfaOx2EcHZ8AVWG_u2KHQPYC2DbDHRs5umR5m_Rm6JJwQEokQ/viewform)

### Post-Secondary Education

*Kellogg Community College (KCC)* – Scott Cubberly reported KCC staff continue to explore building additional partnerships and they are working with Lisa Smith on the State Apprenticeship Expansion (SAE) grant. They are also working on outreach with employers in the Marshall area as well as exploring a CareerQuest™ mobile lab.

### Adult Education

Jerry Johnson reported that regional Adult Education providers are doing well. Participation has stabilized and instruction has retooled with the use of technology and increasing access. There are not a lot of changes statewide. Funding is flat and costs are rising.

### **MI Job Corps**

No report.

### **MWSW BUSINESS SERVICES and BUSINESS UPDATES**

Kathy Olsen reported on Business Services for Ashley Iovieno. The Business Services Team supported two recent events; both were held on May 1, 2022. They included the Albion Recipe for Success Job Fair and the Spring Hiring Blitz in Coldwater. The Coldwater event included bringing classrooms of students from the Branch Area Career Center over to the event to interact with employers and learn more about local companies. Between the two events, approximately eighty (80) employers were in attendance. Job seeker attendance was lower than desired.

The Business Service Team is setting up today for MiCareerQuest™ Southwest. The event will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday this week. Approximately 4,000 eighth grade students from Calhoun and Kalamazoo Counties are expected to attend. Some new pathways were added for this year's event with one including students spending time outside to see and explore large equipment. This pathway is being called 'Touch a Truck'. Volunteers are still needed for the event and interested parties can sign up at

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfaOx2EcHZ8AVWG\\_u2KHQPYC2DbDHRs5umR5m\\_Rm6JJwQEokQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfaOx2EcHZ8AVWG_u2KHQPYC2DbDHRs5umR5m_Rm6JJwQEokQ/viewform).

### **CEAC METRICS**

Kathy Olsen reminded members to send her career pathway and exploration events that have occurred since July 1, 2021. The annual report for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 will be due to the State in July.

### **ELECTION OF CEAC VICE-CHAIR**

Tim Staffen reported that with the retirement of Tommy Cameron, a new vice-chair needs to be elected.

**Motion by Brian O'Donnell and supported by Dustin Scharer to nominate Jim Berry to serve as the CEAC Vice Chair. Motion carried.**

### **OTHER MEMBER UPDATES**

Members commented on data from today's economic presentation that resonated with them. This included the volatility of individuals ages 18-24 years; the migration of retirees moving to Florida and Texas where there is 0% income tax; and retail workers who left the industry for higher paying jobs in manufacturing.

One member stressed the need for youth to understand that the manufacturing industry has strict attendance requirements and that this type of work also requires teamwork and adherence to schedule-based production.

One member noted that due to trauma, some schools are changing policies. An example provided was that some schools are currently not enforcing dress codes. This person noted there is a need to reacclimate to a more professional environment.

Another member reported that they are seeing many 18-24-year-old individuals who have not held a previous job and attendance and showing up on time does not appear to be a priority for this population.

Another member noted there are a lot of supply chain issues that has been driven by the bottleneck at ports. This can also be a cause for potential inflation. There are also many jobs in the trucking industry that need to be filled. Many companies have raised prices and blamed the need to do so on COVID even though the companies are having record profits and are buying back stocks.

It was reported that many who quit jobs in healthcare and hospitality were tired of dealing with irate customers.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS and MEETINGS**

*Michigan Trades Program Pilot Program* - Diane Owen-Rogers reported a Michigan Trades Program will be piloted this summer in Calhoun and Kalamazoo Counties. Staff are working with Brian O'Donnell and the Michigan Building Trades for the pilot that will be focused on middle school age students. The curriculum will include math, construction trades and social emotional learning. Mr. O'Donnell thanked Diane Owen-Rogers for her hard work on this project and noted that it will be great benefit to the area's trades profession helping to fill the pipeline as additional retirements are experienced.

*WIOA Four-Year Regional and Local Plans* - Kathy Olsen reported modifications to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Four-Year Regional and Local Plans for Program Years (PYs) 2020 through 2023 for Region 8 and Michigan Works! Southwest. The plans will be available for public comment until June 15, 2022. A link to the plans will be sent to members following the meeting.

*Kalamazoo Growlers Education Days* - The Kalamazoo Growlers will be hosting three education days. They are scheduled for June 1, 2 and 6, 2022. Attendees will be mostly elementary and middle school age students. There will be sixteen (16) booths to explore STEM careers and colleges. There are still openings for additional companies to participate.

**NEXT CEAC MEETING**

The next CEAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 19, 2022, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. The decision to hold the meeting virtually or in-person will be made later.

Between meetings, if members have information that they would like shared with the CEAC group, they should send the information to Kathy Olsen to be distributed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Kathy Olsen, CEAC staff support

---

Tim Staffen, Chair CEAC