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## Career Educational Advisory Council (CEAC)

### Meeting Minutes

Sept 19, 2022

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**CALL TO ORDER** – Committee Chair, Tim Staffen, called the virtual meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

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

Jim Berry (SJCISD)  
Dr Mark Dunnebeck, alternate for Coates (KVCC)  
LaToy Green (Parent)  
Jerry Johnson (ISD-Calhoun)  
David Maurer (PS-Humphrey Products)  
Brian O'Donnell (PS-Martell Electric)

Dr. Diane Owen-Rogers (MiSTEM)  
Andrea Rainer (Huron Pottawatomi)  
Dustin Scharer (BACC/CTE)  
Jim Sertic (PS-Sertic Consulting)  
Tammy Schiller (CISD/CACC)  
Tim Staffen (CISD)

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

Kathy Olsen (MWSW)

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Rebecca Foley (PS- Beacon Group/TR Health)  
Jennifer Searles (BACC)

Lisa Smith (KRESA)

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

Dr. Dennis Baskin (KCC)  
Jeff Birkholz (PS-DENSO)Cameron Buck/Eric  
Stewart (KRESA-CTE)  
James Brylowski /James Callahan,  
(Labor-SW MI Building Trades)

Mitch Fowler (BCPS)  
Windy Rea (Job Corps)  
Ken Willcutt (Labor-Plumbers & Pipefitters  
& HVACR Local Union 357)

#### **INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Individuals present introduced themselves and the agency/company they represented.

#### **MINUTES**

Approval of the CEAC May 16, 2022 minutes was tabled until the next CEAC meeting.

#### **MI STEM NETWORK UPDATE**

Diane Owen-Rogers reported the MI Trades Program was launched by Southwest MiSTEM this past spring. The program is a way to bridge middle school students to construction trades career paths. The program connects SEL, trades skills and knowledge, and mathematics. Two pilot sessions, one in Hastings and one at Kalamazoo Public Schools, took place this summer. An article regarding the Hastings Middle School MI Trades Program can be accessed at <https://mea.org/donations-jumpstart-program/>. An article regarding the Kalamazoo Public Schools MI Trades Program can be accessed at [https://www.kalamazoopublicschools.com/cms/lib/MI50000600/Centricity/Domain/60/Excelsior\\_Sep22\\_web.pdf](https://www.kalamazoopublicschools.com/cms/lib/MI50000600/Centricity/Domain/60/Excelsior_Sep22_web.pdf). Both programs benefitted from donations and/or auctioned projects to raise funds. Dr. Owens reported they are seeking more partners and speakers so that the program can be expanded into additional schools next year. Dr. Diane Owen-Rogers also reported they are developing a data science course pairing

traditional algebra with computer science. There will be training for math teachers so they can develop a course for students that embeds traditional Algebra II with computer science. Tim Staffen indicated Calhoun ISD would be interested. Others who are interested in learning more and/or becoming an early adopter should contact her at [diane.owenrogers@kresa.org](mailto:diane.owenrogers@kresa.org).

## EDUCATION UPDATES

### Secondary Education

*St. Joseph County ISD* – Jim Berry reported St. Joseph County schools have half days this week due to it being fair week. Three Rivers High School is starting to receive equipment funded by the SME Prime Grant. The instructor, Phil Webb, has a strong math and manufacturing background. Graphic Design is no longer offered at Glen Oaks Community College because an instructor could not be identified. Otherwise, St. Joseph ISD is fully staffed. A public safety class is now offered at Centreville High School and the instructor is a retired St. Joseph County sheriff. There is also a new advanced healthcare class.

*Branch Area ISD* – Dustin Scharer reported Branch County CTE is fully staffed. Changes in allowing retired teachers to return to the classroom affected a few of the classes. The Cosmetology class has been closed. The CAD/CAM architecture class that operated on an engineering SIP code has had the architecture SIP code added. CTE enrollment numbers have increased from 400+ to over 500 this year.

*Calhoun County ISD* – Tim Staffen reported CTE enrollment numbers at Calhoun ISD are down. Construction for expansion of the welding program is expected to begin at the end of November or early December. The hope is that two more sections can be added which would serve approximately fifty (50) more students. This will address the current waiting list for at least one year. The biggest problem is hiring staff, not the equipment. An Apprenticeship Program is being proposed. The development of which came from the Michigan Works! Youth Apprenticeship Program and the State Apprenticeship Expansion Grant that KRESA is operating. Calhoun ISD is applying for a DENSO Foundation grant. A proposal will be presented to the CISD Board to hire teachers to teach 21<sup>st</sup> century soft skills. Students can access technical training at KCC RMTTC or at the KCC Eastern campus. By focusing on apprenticeships, flexibility is being built into the programming. Current apprenticeships include three machinists, five vet techs, six electricians, and five finish carpenters with the technical training covered by the post-secondary partner and CISD providing the soft skills training. CISD also holds the technical standards for the apprenticeships. The pilot is operating with 6-7 students working with the current system and not as a separate classroom. This model is not dependent on a specific business partner. Calhoun ISD will be participating in the MICareerQuest Southwest on October 25-26, 2022. Volunteers are still needed, and individuals can sign up at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc22AoQ6cmBu5XqoiQ0gkOqyAslK1ut00CP\\_WfQujOw5aYvhA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc22AoQ6cmBu5XqoiQ0gkOqyAslK1ut00CP_WfQujOw5aYvhA/viewform)

Tammy Schiller reported that this Friday, September 23, 2022, is Military and Public Services Career Day. So far, twenty-four (24) organizations representing organizations such as college ROTC, healthcare, DHHS, MDOT, the military and MI State Police are committed to participating. The event will be an expo style format and will include introducing the students to some large equipment. Students will be prepped to ask questions and they will be given opportunities to cycle through and interact with businesses.

*Kalamazoo RESA* – Lisa Smith reported the State Apprenticeship Expansion (SAE) grant is for in-school and out-of-school students through age 24. There is ongoing support for youth ages 18-34 for short-term training in all four counties.

### Post-Secondary Education

No reports.

### Adult Education

Jerry Johnson reported there have been struggles using NexSys for the adult education grants. The first quarterly meeting for this program year for the Adult Education providers will be on October 3, 2022. The State budget has identified stable funding for the region's adult education programs. There are five providers who are consistently under performing and focused professional development will be provided to help increase performance.

### MI Job Corps

No report.

### BUSINESS UPDATES

*Private Sector* – David Maurer from Humphrey Products reported the groundbreaking for Kalamazoo's new technical education Career Center will take place at the end of September. Southwest Michigan First's strategic planning includes bringing the Advanced Manufacturing Career Consortium that has been meeting at KVCC under their organization. They hope to create a more regional approach to manufacturing as well as more diverse industry involvement by working with Battle Creek Unlimited. They will also be working to recruit consortium members to work more closely with KRESA and the new Career Center.

Portage Public Schools will be hosting an all-Portage STEAM night at the Air Zoo on Friday, October 21, 2022, from 3:00-8:00 p.m. This is the second of what is to be an annual event. Over 3,100 individuals attended the inaugural event and holding it annually was delayed due to COVID.

In the manufacturing industry, many of the lower-skilled positions are getting filled; however, there are still openings for more skilled positions such as maintenance techs, mechanical technicians, CNC operators, and welders.

Jim Sertic reminded educators to continue focus on building skilled labor because there will always be an increasing demand for workers with higher skills. He reminded members to help send this message to students and parents.

*MW! Southwest Business Services* - Kathy Olsen reported on Business Services for Ashley Iovieno. As reported earlier during today's meeting, the MICareerQuest Southwest is scheduled for October 25-26, 2022. The event will be held at the Kalamazoo Expo Center. Volunteers are still needed, and individuals can sign up at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc22AoQ6cmBu5XqoiQ0gkOqyAsIK1ut00CP\\_WfQujOw5aYvhA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc22AoQ6cmBu5XqoiQ0gkOqyAsIK1ut00CP_WfQujOw5aYvhA/viewform).

### CEAC METRICS

Kathy Olsen reminded members to send her their list of career pathway and exploration events that have occurred since July 1, 2022, as well as any that are planned this school year through June 30, 2023.

### OTHER MEMBER UPDATES

Jennifer Searls reported Branch Area Career Center will be hosting a career day for ninth-grade students.

Jim Berry reported Manufacturing Day is October 7, 2022, and four days of activities are planned at 4 to 5 employer locations in the St. Joseph County area.

Students in 10<sup>th</sup> grade will be visiting the Branch Area Career Center. Each student will visit two programs. A few of the presenters will be students who are currently or formerly enrolled.

Calhoun County students are also participating in Manufacturing Day events.

KCC and Marshall Public Schools will hold another event targeted to middle school students at RMTCC. The students will also visit a couple of manufacturing sites in the Fort Custer area.

Jim Berry reported St. Joseph County ISD is working on having students develop a talent portfolio and they have hired a Career Prep/Work-based Learning Coordinator to spearhead this project. He will provide further information at the next CEAC meeting.

Members requested that the topic of Best Practices be added to the December 5, 2022, CEAC meeting agenda.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Manufacturing Day is October 7, 2022.
- MICareerQuest Southwest is October 25-26, 2022, at the Kalamazoo Expo Center.

#### **NEXT CEAC MEETING**

The next CEAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 5, 2022, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Kathy Olsen will reserve a meeting room at Kalamazoo RESA. Members are encouraged to attend in-person; however, a virtual option will also be made available.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathy Olsen, CEAC staff support

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Tim Staffen, Chair CEAC