



## MAWB Business Services/Economic Development Committee Minutes

February 11, 2021

**Summary of Special Presentation:** Jacquelyn Carpenter, Vice President of Workforce Development at [Twin Cities R!SE](#), discussed their program model and their [Fair Chance Hiring Guide](#). Discussion ensued about best practices for approaching employers on this subject, and the value of opening up conversations and building relationships with employers. Twin Cities R!SE does not currently work in greater Minnesota but they are delivering virtual services. They are interested in having conversations about how they can best complement services already being offered in local areas in greater Minnesota.

### Employer-Related Updates: Items Pertinent to Employers or Employer Services

- M State
  - M State is a strategic partner with [Realtime Talent](#), an organization which provides data and analytics on the economy and workforce. Realtime Talent recently posted a [COVID-19 Impact Report](#). M State continues to work with employers to hire for in-demand fields. They have a pilot project going to help establish careers in long-term care, which has a need for about 5,500 new employees.
  - M State is also working on a sector strategy for customized training.
  
- State Agencies
  - DEED, Jackie Buck
    - April is Tech Month! Similar to Healthcare Month, CareerForce will be adding marketing and communications efforts for the technology sector during April. “During the entire month of April, DEED and our workforce development partners in CareerForce are working together with industry leaders, employers, educators and others to highlight the many opportunities in Information Technology, help overcome educational and other barriers to those who want to pursue a career in Information Technology, and encourage Minnesotans to explore this in-demand career field. DEED’s Immigrant and Refugee Affairs and Vocational Rehabilitation Services teams will provide specific resources to invite New Americans and people with disabilities to explore IT careers. And we’re working with employers to overcome barriers to hiring – from unnecessary minimum requirements to unwarranted concerns about disability accommodations.”
    - DEED is also in conversation about reskilling efforts – this is the internal-to-DEED focus for February.
    - Send to Adesewa Adesiji at [adesewa.adesiji@state.mn.us](mailto:adesewa.adesiji@state.mn.us), Liz Jennings at [liz.jennings@state.mn.us](mailto:liz.jennings@state.mn.us), or Jackie Buck at [jacqueline.buck@state.mn.us](mailto:jacqueline.buck@state.mn.us): any tech events scheduled for April and names of employers who use technology in innovative ways.
  - DEED, Liz Jennings

- Hosting Explore Careers events every week. If you know of employers who have a story they want to tell, connect them with Liz.
    - Marci Jasper was not able to attend the meeting, but the bite-size learning videos for employers regarding hiring people with disabilities will be posted very soon on CareerForceMN.com.
  - DEED, Chet Bodin
    - Working with Jackie Buck with a group of employers in Northwest Minnesota regarding hiring justice-involved jobseekers.
  - DoLI, Dan Solomon
    - [More Pipeline events coming up soon.](#)
    - A new [Dual Training Grant application period](#) will be open from March 2<sup>nd</sup> to April 16<sup>th</sup>.
    - Youth Skills Training grant will be open for applications in the next week or two. These will be roughly \$100,000 grants providing paid work experiences for 16-17-year-olds.
- Minnesota Association of Professional County Economic Developers (MAPCED)
  - Please continue to add to the [CARES-Act Funded Workforce Project list!](#)
- Local Areas
  - Rural Minnesota CEP
    - Pre-Apprenticeship course will be an introduction to trades and help build soft skills. It will include a paid internship.
  - Central Minnesota (CMJTS)
    - Have been collaborating with Career Solutions on regional projects. For Healthcare Month, they held sessions with local employers at schools which had very high turnout and positive results. They will be re-recording the session and posting online. They will be reproducing this model for Tech Month. They are also reproducing the Inclusive Workforce Employer (I-WE) program in their area.
  - Southeast Minnesota (WDI)
    - Partnering with employers about retaining diverse employees.
    - Doing a pre-employment training pilot project with DEED.
    - Annual Best Places to Work program is a data-driven survey for employers. This is a highly successful program with lots of great employer feedback.
  - Dakota-Scott
    - January Jump Start program is an opportunity for jobseekers to ask employers questions and has been very successful.
  - Stearns-Benton (Career Solutions)
    - CDL Discovery Day, CareerForce St. Cloud Employer Resource flyer, Immigrant Services for Businesses video: all resources are posted on the committee page.

### **Leading with Equity**

- The special presentation on the Twin Cities RISE Fair Chance Hiring Guide was the *Leading with Equity* conversation for the committee this month.