



## MAWB Business Services/Economic Development Committee Minutes

October 14, 2021

### Summary of Special Presentation

Ben Baglio joined the meeting to share an overview presentation of the Governor's Workforce Development Board. [See slides.](#)

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

- Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD)
  - MCCD has recently seen an increase in lending inquiries. Some businesses are still hurting from the pandemic; others have seen a more significant recovery. Interest rates are very low right now, making capital affordable.
- State Agencies
  - DEED
    - There is a record number of resumes on MinnesotaWorks.net. There are 121,524 jobs posted. Job fair events have received little traffic overall. In-person job fairs might be doing slightly better at turning out jobseekers. CareerForceMN.com has a new chat bot to help navigate the website. The bot does not pop up a notification, but you can find it in the bottom right corner as you scroll down the home page.
    - There are two openings for Workforce Strategy Consultants. A Workforce Wednesday webinar will take place on Wednesday, November 3, 2021 about Construction in Minnesota and will feature community partners. There is a [TRUE Tuesdays session \(rural Minnesota social justice/equity series\) on October 19<sup>th</sup>](#) about federal and state responses to the resettlement of Afghan evacuees.
    - The business development team is trying to collaborate more with workforce boards. They continue to work on the I-WE designation.
    - VRS has created [bite-size learning modules for employers](#) who are interested in learning more about hiring people with disabilities.
  - DoLI
    - Advanced Manufacturing: Oct. 26, 2021, from 9 to 10 a.m. [Learn more and register.](#)
    - Agriculture: Oct. 26, 2021, from 1 to 2 p.m. [Learn more and register.](#)
    - Health Care Services: Oct. 27, 2021, from 9 to 10 a.m. [Learn more and register.](#)
    - Information Technology: Oct. 27, 2021, from 1 to 2 p.m. [Learn more and register.](#)
    - DLI will release a new round of grand funds in the next month or so for Youth Skills Training.
- Local Areas
  - Rural Minnesota CEP
    - Hosting an in-person job festival in Fergus Falls. Also held a "Trunk or Treat" job fair in the Little Falls CareerForce parking lot. They have recently had the [Big Ideas Trailer](#) at several events which has been extremely popular. The

experience is targeted towards high school students and encourages youth to get involved in the trades.

- Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services
  - Busy with grant writing. Assisting their Workforce Strategy Consultant with manufacturing month events, since she is also a part of the Central Minnesota Manufacturers Association (CMMA). Promotional efforts have gone very well, with over 1,000 students interested in taking tours of manufacturing facilities. Other schools have also reached out to host career days and bring employers into schools. Recently wrapped up a Healthcare Camp – nine youth from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe completed the program. They are doing a lot of in-person events, including a manufacturing event in Monticello. Recently also approved three or four incumbent workers for CDL. CMJTS is also working on several leadership/supervisory trainings.
- Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council
  - Holding hiring events in Redwood and Swift counties. Employers have been pushing hard to have job fairs. Also doing CareerForce presentations to the Chamber of Commerce board. [Summer Tech and Trades event with Minnesota West](#) had over 50 students, and they are considering expanding this to host smaller events during the school year. Held a two-day career expo which brought over 2,400 students. They have also brought the Big Ideas Trailer to several events.
- Southeast Minnesota (Workforce Development, Inc.)
  - Employment Equity Task Force is comprised of board members, staff, partners, and employers. The task force looks for best practices in the state and partners with other organizations to address employment disparities and assist businesses who need help bringing equity into their organizations.
  - Also working with [IBM on SkillsBuild virtual badges for jobseekers](#).
  - Recent presentation by DEED's Labor Market Information office presented on worker shortage data from the region.
- Anoka County
  - Hosting virtual events through December. Taking part in metro regional events as well.

#### **Local area events/activities during Manufacturing Month**

- Northwest PIC is doing a luncheon for employers with awards in partnership with the Chamber
- Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services (CMJTS) is holding a specific hiring event with tours for students and a virtual magazine promoting manufacturer employers
- Rural CEP is participating in the tours of manufacturing and holding a job fair in conjunction
- Southwest PIC did an event with 80 students and 6 manufacturing companies, which included lunch at Minnesota West with information on manufacturing programs.