



## **Business Services/Economic Development Committee**

February 15, 2024, 9:30-11:30am

The committee was called to order at 9:33 am.

The committee heard a presentation on the Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline Program and the Minnesota Registered Apprenticeship Program from Dan Solomon and Erin Larsen from the Department of Labor & Industry. The presentation can be accessed at this link: <https://mawb-mn.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/MAWB-meeting-DLI-presentation.pptx>

The following links were also shared:

- <https://www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/pipeline-recap23.pdf>
- <https://www.dli.mn.gov/business/workforce/labor-education-advancement-program-leap-grant>

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

- M State
  - Division is growing, including involvement in state wide initiatives
  - M State is involved with North Star Promise roll out
- Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
- Economic Development Association of Minnesota (EDAM)
  - Eric Maass, EDAM First VP [emaass@chanhassenmn.gov](mailto:emaass@chanhassenmn.gov) should be the representative to this meeting.
  - Had winter conference at the end of January with record attendance.
  - Webinar on engaging with lawmakers and
- Minnesota Association of Professional County Economic Developers (MAPCED)
- State Agencies
  - DEED
    - <https://mn.gov/deed/business/finding-workers/incentives/wotc.jsp>
    - Work opportunities tax credit – change in how business submit forms, must be submitted with 28 days of the hire. <https://mn.gov/deed/business/finding-workers/incentives/wotc.jsp>
    - A federal tax credit for private sector businesses as an incentive to hire workers in groups who consistently experience high rates of unemployment.
    - The updated ETA Form 9061 (Expiration Date: March 31, 2026) is now required on all applications. As of February 20, 2024 the ETA Form 9061 will have the 28-day filing deadline attached to it, replicating the current filing deadline for the IRS Form 8850.
  - DoLI

- VRS
  - Training program for business to become “inclusive businesses”
  - Training for community partners across the state
  - GoMN Grant pilot taking place in Duluth
  - Promoting ERAF program - \$2 million grant for accommodation funding
- Local Areas
  - Rural Minnesota CEP
  - City of Duluth
  - City of Lakeville
    - Chamber applied for Career Pathways grant & was awarded 😊
  - Central Minnesota (CMJTS)
    - New Executive Director, Dina Wuornos
    - Getting together summer camps for the summer
    - March 27<sup>th</sup> hiring event
    - A lot of dislocated workers coming through the door lately
  - Southwest Minnesota
  - Southeast Minnesota (WDI)
    - Best places to work survey is running
    - Preparing for workforce development forum in April
    - Working on incumbent working training program
  - Hennepin-Carver
  - City of Minneapolis
    - Wrapping up an Office of Apprenticeship Outreach – starting metro-serving, eventually opening up across state with resources
    - Partnering with Hennepin on DEI trainings in the near future
  - Anoka County
  - Ramsey County
    - Held inclusive hiring summit, had ~100 employers attend and ~50 trainers attend. Felt like it was a success
    - Working with Repowered on training program for individuals who have been incarcerated and provide simulation of what it is like to get a job as a recently incarcerated person on April 16
    - Resource and job fair related to environmental resources, including emerging green careers. “Green Color Jobs”
  - Dakota-Scott
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> zoom meeting about ESST, previous call was in the fall
    - DoLI came to talk to employers who still have questions
    - Youth and Business Services is putting together a lunch with school counselors
  - Stearns-Benton (Career Solutions)
    - Incumbent worker training is busy – 4 larger employers are making use
    - Planning spring open house, try to plan around CareerForce hiring event.
    - Had annual meeting last week.
    - Received P2P Grant, lots of planning and recruitment upcoming.
    - Seen an increase of dislocated workers recently.

- EPIC for Influencers on April 16 to learn about high demand careers
- Washington County
  - “Optimizing your Business” summits coming up again this year
  - Launching virtual reality for career pathways exploration
- Northwest PIC