



Business Services/Economic Development Committee

March 12, 2026, 9:30-11:00am

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

Featured Topic: Job Training Incentive Program (JTIP) & Automation Training Incentive Program (ATIP)
Overview – Danielle Kressin | DEED

- Danielle provided an overview of the Job Training Incentive Program (JTIP) and the Automation Training Incentive Program (ATIP). The full presentation can be accessed [here](#).

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

- M State
- Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
- Economic Development Association of Minnesota (EDAM)
- Minnesota Association of Professional County Economic Developers (MAPCED)
- State Agencies
 - DEED
 - Announced upcoming **Workforce Wednesday webinar (June)**.
 - Topic: **“Who Is MOB? An Inside Look at Minnesota’s Workforce Development Boards.”**
 - Seeking **3–4 workforce board directors** to participate in a panel discussion.
 - Each director would ideally bring **an employer board member** from their region.
 - Webinar will cover:
 - Role of workforce boards in Minnesota’s workforce system.
 - Collaboration with state agencies and partners.
 - Board structure, responsibilities, and impact.
 - VRS
 - DLI
 - RETAIN
 - Following recent RETAIN training, promotional materials were mailed to all four workforce development areas participating in the RETAIN grant.
 - Requested confirmation that materials were received.
 - Coordinating with partners to gather details about upcoming employer events connected to RETAIN activities.
 - Announced RETAIN Summit:
 - April 24
 - Radisson Blu – Mall of America
 - Audience includes:
 - Employers
 - Insurers

- HR professionals
 - Healthcare providers
 - Summit topics:
 - Overview of paid leave policies
 - History and goals of RETAIN
 - Strategies for keeping workers employed and supported
 - Shared promotional flyers with participants.
- Local Areas
 - Rural Minnesota CEP
 - Preparing for job fair season across eight offices.
 - Interested in exploring a reverse job fair model in their region.
 - Program and initiative updates:
 - Launching Growing Careers program.
 - Continuing Pathways to Prosperity (P2P) programming for the next several years.
 - Operating Second Chances, Stronger Futures, supporting justice-impacted individuals with:
 - Career advising
 - Resume assistance
 - Financial literacy services
 - Services delivered at two transitional housing sites in Perham.
 - Launching an Early Childhood Education career pathway with the Northwest Minnesota Foundation.
 - Awarded a Cannabis Career grant to support workforce development in the emerging cannabis industry.
 - Planning a tour of the Wabagon Mashkiki cannabis facility in Mahnomen (April 16) with the Regional Workforce Alliance.
 - Career advising program:
 - 8 career advisors working across 14 schools.
 - Wrapping up another successful school year of advising.
 - Rolling out multiple programs including:
 - Growing Careers
 - Pathways to Prosperity (P2P)
 - Drive for Five
 - Identified a staff knowledge gap in agriculture sector careers related to the Growing Careers initiative.
 - Requested resources or ideas from other regions on agriculture workforce development strategies.
 - City of Duluth
 - City of Lakeville
 - Central Minnesota (CMJTS)
 - Multiple employer and job seeker initiatives underway:
 - Hiring event in Monticello – March 31 (Monticello High School).
 - Hiring event in Paynesville – April 14 (Pizza Pub).

- RETAIN initiative employer trainings focused on workplace mental health:
 - Trauma-Informed Care training – April 2.
 - “Clear is Kind” workplace wellness training – April 9.
 - Both sessions are virtual and open statewide.
 - Registered Apprenticeship grant activities:
 - Launching an employer readiness assessment pilot for apprenticeship development.
 - Participating in community outreach:
 - Exhibiting at the Big Lake Community Expo to promote workforce programs.
 - Hosting Skills-Based Hiring Accelerator events with Goodwill/Easter Seals:
 - Recent event in Monticello.
 - Event occurring today in Mora with 20 employers participating.
 - Upcoming event March 24 in Willmar.
- Southeast Minnesota (WDI)
- Hennepin-Carver
- City of Minneapolis
- Anoka County
 - Hosted Youth Construct event (Feb 24) at Blaine Super Rink:
 - ~300 students attended despite icy weather.
 - Ongoing bi-monthly hiring events; next one March 18.
 - Hosting job seeker open house – March 25:
 - Includes mini workshops, program overviews, and staff engagement.
 - Workforce training programs:
 - Growing Careers CDL cohort launched; first cohort full with waitlist forming.
 - Drive for Five – Human Services Assistant pathway in partnership with Anoka Technical College.
 - P2P Manufacturing Technology training being developed with Anoka Tech.
 - Hosted Metro Region Economic & Workforce Development Summit in Coon Rapids:
 - About 100 attendees.
 - Topic: Generations in the Workplace with speakers and employer panel discussion.
- Ramsey County
- Dakota-Scott
- Stearns-Benton (Career Solutions)
 - Hosted a “Your Lucky Day” open house and job fair with a St. Patrick’s Day theme.
 - 174 job seekers attended, a record turnout.
 - Event included resume review stations, gift card drawings, and program information.
 - Promoted upcoming training programs:
 - Pathways to Prosperity (P2P) Facilities Maintenance training starting late April (free training).
 - Drive for Five welding cohort launching later this spring.
 - Planning a Reverse Job Fair in May.

- Participating in Construct Tomorrow (April 7 in St. Cloud) to introduce high school students to the trades.
- Beginning CareerOne youth program recruitment, including employer participation in mock interviews and career preparation activities.
 - 180 available program spots for the year.
 - Already nearing that number in applications early in March.
 - Youth are finding the program organically via the website and word-of-mouth, even before marketing materials were distributed.
- Washington County
- Northwest PIC
- Winona County
- Many areas report increased jobseekers coming in seeking DW services.
- The committee discussed how areas are moving forward with the I-WE program.

The committee concluded at 10:09 am.