

MINUTES – MEETING OF THE  
CAREER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

May 10, 2016  
1:00 p.m.

The Career Education and Workforce Development Board was called to order by Chairman Michael Garner. The meeting was held at the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, 525 West Capitol Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas.

A record of member attendance is as follows:

PRESENT

Mr. Michael Garner, Chair  
Mr. Hugh McDonald, Vice Chair  
Mr. Jeff Standridge  
Mr. Troy Keeping  
Mrs. Jenifer Price  
Mrs. Stacy Gunderman  
Dr. Jerry Cash  
Dr. Keith Vire  
Mrs. Gina Radke  
Dr. Adam Arroyos

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members

Dr. Charisse Childers, Ex-Officio Secretary  
Mr. Arnell Willis, Sr. (Mr. Daryl Bassett)  
Mr. Johnny Key  
Dr. Richard Abernathy  
Mr. Mike Preston  
Mr. Bill Stovall  
Dr. Brett Powell

ABSENT

Mr. Burton Weis  
Mr. Scott Copas

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members

Dr. Paul Beran

Mr. Michael Garner introduced Ms. Nga Mahfouz from the Attorney General's office.

Dr. Charisse Childers introduced Representative Joe Jett.

ACTION ITEM 1 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2016

On a motion by Mr. Keeping and second by Dr. Vire, the Career Education and Workforce Development Board unanimously approved the minutes of March 8, 2016.

ACTION ITEM 2 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 12, 2016

On a motion by Mr. Keeping and second by Mr. Standridge, the Career Education and Workforce Development Board unanimously approved the minutes of April 12, 2016.

INFORMATION ITEM 3 – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE ARKANSAS COLLEGE AND CAREER COACH PROGRAM

Ms. Sonja Wright-McMurray, Associate Director, CTE Special Projects, stated that this is in response to the request by the board at the previous board meeting.

Ms. McMurray stated that the Arkansas College and Career Coach Program was established as a pilot initiative in January 2010. The program was designed to provide college and career planning services and activities to middle/high school students within the 21 most economically challenged counties across the state of Arkansas.

Ms. McMurray stated that the College and Career Coach Component is designed to motivate and support Arkansas students and adults achieve their goals as it relates to college and career planning through intensive hands-on, programs and services. Career Coaches work in partnership with the Career Orientation Instructors and School Counselors to assist with the development and revision of college and career plans for their students.

Ms. McMurray stated that since the passage Act 1285, the pilot initiative was expanded to allow opportunities for additional counties and school districts to participate. Over the past five years, the program has been expanded and provides services to middle/high school students in 34 counties throughout the state utilizing a multi-component system including: Online based college and career planning tool, College and Career Coaches, ACT Academy, Arkansas College Application Campaign, and Career Cluster Camps.

#### INFORMATION ITEM 4 – FORDHAM INSTITUTE STUDY BASED ON ARKANSAS RESEARCH CENTER'S DATA ON CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN ARKANSAS

Ms. Kathi Turner, Deputy Director, Career and Technical Education and Dr. Jake Walker, Arkansas Research Center provided the board members with an overview of data on Career and Technical Education in Arkansas and the implications of the Fordham Institute's study for future research.

#### ACTION ITEM 5 – APPROVAL OF SECONDARY CENTER COMPLIANCE REVIEW

Dr. Charisse Childers, Director, stated that it is recommended that the Career Education and Workforce Development Board unanimously support the agency's compliance review with the Policies and Procedures for Secondary Centers dated December 3, 2013.

Dr. Childers stated as we are reviewing every program and division and moving toward greater accountability and compliance with the program policies and procedures, the Secondary Vocational Area (Technical) Centers along with the Career and Technical Education programs generally, are under review. This review is to comprehensively evaluate compliance with laws, regulations, and policies, as well as to identify opportunities to improve the quality of operations and services provided to Arkansas's workforce and employers.

Mr. Brian Rogers, Deputy Director, Office of Skills Development, provided the board members with background and highlights of the Secondary Technical Centers.

Mr. Garner stated he wanted to clarify what Mr. Rogers was stating, that the policies and procedures have already been in place and that you have been under a strict review to more equally enforce the policies that are already in place and utilize the policies and procedures that are there. You are asking for this boards support as you move forward with the current policies and procedures. There is no change to the policies and procedures.

Mr. Rogers stated yes, no changes to the policies and procedures at this time. The two items are that the board approves us to enforce compliance with the existing policies and procedures and approve proceeding to a formal process to propose changes to the policies and procedures and possibly legislation.

Mr. Standridge asked how do you see that compliance review process taking place when you go to a Secondary Center. Dr. Childers stated that we have been doing this and it has been ongoing since last summer. Dr. Childers asked Mr. Rogers and Ms. Stephanie Isaacs, Senior Auditor to speak to the process that has been taking place.

Mr. Rogers stated that the audit group already audits, but of course, that is after the fact. So some of the learnings we had from those have put some things on our radar that we need to dive deeper into and we have already started some of the conversation.

Mr. Standridge stated so you already kind of know where some potential issues are and you want to go in and review policies with those situations and say here are some things we have found. Mr. Rogers stated that we are already doing that.

Ms. Radke stated so you are asking us for approval to enforce compliance. Dr. Childers stated yes approval and support.

On a motion by Mr. Keeping and second by Mr. McDonald, the Career Education and Workforce Development Board unanimously approved the agency to enforce compliance with the Policies and Procedures for Secondary Centers dated December 3, 2013.

#### ACTION ITEM 6 – AUTHORIZATION OF PILOT SECONDARY CENTER WITH BLACK RIVER TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Dr. Childers stated that it is recommended that the Career Education and Workforce Development Board approve by a majority vote the authorization of a Pilot Project for Black River Technical College to offer programs of study to high school students in their service area. It is recommended that funding be provided as available through current funding streams. The Board action will be effective July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2019, as required by Act 892 of 2015.

Dr. Childers stated that the purpose of this pilot program is to create a model for advancing technology centers in Arkansas to meet labor demands, student potential and economic needs, community advancement and regional economic growth. This project will assist ACE with creating policies and procedures for future CTE advancement of high quality technology centers and the accessibility to students. This pilot project will advance the college and career preparedness of students for the workforce and further post-secondary education and training.

Ms. Kathi Turner, Deputy Director, Career and Technical Education, stated that she has had the privilege of working with Northeast Arkansas Education Cooperative to help them establish a secondary career center in their area. Working with Pocahontas High School, which took a lead there, Mr. Daryl Blaxton, Superintendent of Pocahontas School District, wanted to offer more opportunities for his students in his area and he realized the potential he had just across town at Black River Technical College.

Ms. Turner introduced Dr. Eric Turner, President, Black River Technical College.

Dr. Turner provided the board members with an executive summary from Black River Technical College requesting funding for a three year pilot program to provide technical certificates and associate degrees to high school students. This pilot program will provide a foundation for students to develop an employable skillset, transferrable credits, and stackable credentials.

Dr. Turner stated that in collaboration with two school districts Pocahontas School District and Sloan Hendrix School District and input from regional business and industry, the College has developed two pathways for students, Healthcare and Industrial Technology.

Dr. Turner stated the College is seeking funding for approximately 100 students. This funding will be applied to tuition, fees, and books for the students at no cost to the students. The College has the equipment, faculty, and infrastructure to accommodate these additional students.

Dr. Turner stated, in closing, the students have the opportunity to receive a value added high school diploma to increase their earning power, college credit, stackable credentials, technical certificates and an associate degree while being dually enrolled in high school.

Ms. Turner provided the board members with a map of the current Secondary Career Centers.

Mr. McDonald stated that you are seeking funding for about 100 students, what is that number and where do you anticipate that coming from. Dr. Childers asked Dr. Turner to provide what Black River is going to provide as in infrastructure and in kind and then what you are asking from the agency. Dr. Childers also stated, please keep in mind that this is figured on a per FTE basis.

Dr. Turner stated that in our model we propose that per FTE would be \$4,657, which is 25% less than the current funding model. Mr. McDonald asked would the technical college provide some of the

funding. Dr. Turner stated that he was providing facilities, overhead, some concurrent waivers and a Career Coach that helps provide student support services.

Mr. Garner asked Dr. Childers if she could verify and go over the funding slide. Dr. Childers stated that we would provide funding for this program as a pilot and it would not be included in our vocational center aid so we would do it through other sources of funding within our agency.

On a motion by Mr. Keeping and second by Ms. Gunderman, the Career Education and Workforce Development Board unanimously approved the authorization of the pilot secondary center with Black River Technical College with quarterly and annual reports due back to the board.

#### ACTION ITEM 7 – AUTHORIZATION OF PILOT SECONDARY CENTER WITH ASU-NEWPORT

Ms. Turner introduced Dr. Sandra Massey, Chancellor, Arkansas State University Newport.

Dr. Sandra Massey stated on behalf of ASU Newport and our proposed high school partners, Bradford, Cedar Ridge, Tuckerman and Newport we are delighted to be here to present our vision for a Secondary Technical Center at ASU Newport that will serve the Jackson county area.

Dr. Massey stated that this center would provide students a value added high school diploma as well as college credit, stackable credentials, industry certification all while being dually enrolled in high school.

Dr. Massey stated that the school districts mentioned above are not currently served by a Secondary Career Center and between the two school districts, approximately fifty percent of the graduating seniors do not pursue post-secondary education, and are underemployed. The proposed model aims to be focused on students to provide better preparation, be responsive to business and industry, and commit to innovation in the use of state and institutional resources.

Dr. Massey stated that in collaboration with the two school districts and input from the existing program advisory committees, regional businesses and industry, the College has developed two high demand pathways for students, Computer Network Technology and Welding. The next two options we want to propose are Service Maintenance and Certified Nursing Assistant and Phlebotomy.

Dr. Massey stated that the high schools have said they would provide the transportation and ASU Newport will scholarship half of the tuition. We will also provide infrastructure, adjunct faculty, and we have state of the art equipment, state of the art facility and the support staff. The only funding that we would be asking for cost per FTE would be \$4381 for 70 students for the first year and then go up to 140 students for the second and third year. In addition, the cost per FTE for the second and third year would be \$3174.

Dr. Massey stated we would really appreciate your consideration of this proposal.

On a motion by Mr. McDonald and second by Dr. Arroyos, the Career Education and Workforce Development Board unanimously approved the authorization of the pilot secondary center with ASU Newport with quarterly and annual reports due back to the board.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Keeping reported that the Personnel Policy committee met and appointed a chair, a vice chair, and that the committee understands the issue and we have another committee meeting prior to our next board meeting. At that time, we hope to present an outline of those talking points we want to present to the Governor.

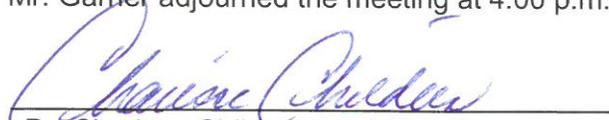
DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Charisse Childers stated that the report will be sent to the board.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Michael Garner, Chair, stated that the next meeting would be June 14, 2016.

Mr. Garner adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.



Dr. Charisse Childers, Ex-Officio Secretary  
Career Education and Workforce  
Development Board



Hugh McDonald, Vice Chairman  
Career Education and Workforce  
Development Board