



Joint Newark & Essex County Business and Economic Development Committee

Essex County College- Training Inc.
Thursday, August 24, 2017 at 9:00 am
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Michael Andreas, Jasmyne Beckford, Mitch Cahn, Ida Chimbay, Arati Chaudhury, Evanthia Corrado, Elizabeth Davis, Tom DiCostanzo, Joseph Eps, Todd Hay, Jr., Jonathan Kobza, Davetta Lane, John Perry, Farag Seiam, Rebecca Shulman, Willie Tolbert and Raymond Vaccari.

Meeting Called to Order: Chairperson, Mitch Cahn

Mitch Cahn called the meeting to order. A roundtable roll call was conducted to introduce all meeting attendees. April 6, 2017 minutes was approved by Willie Tolbert and seconded by Joseph Epps. Mitch advised discussion items to be: summary of the next steps of the Strategic Plan, NJ Advanced Manufacturing Talent Network Event and the Donald M. Payne Sr. Vocational Technical School.

NJ Advanced Manufacturing Talent Network Event: Chairperson, Mitch Cahn

The event Mitch attended displayed a different approach that was used to appeal manufacturers. The event was geared toward introducing the concept of apprenticeship to manufacturers. The NJ Advanced Manufacturing Talent Network will now play the role of intermediary, which will enable them to process paperwork and relationships that are vital in order to be a registered apprentice.

Michael advised that M-RIM (Mega FORCE-Registered Internship Manufacturing Program) will be the intermediary sponsor which is funded by the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development and hosted by NJIT. Michael stated that the issues manufacturers are currently facing are laborers being able to reach the millennial aged and replacement becoming difficult due to the lack of proper skills; therefore, registered apprenticeship programs may overcome these obstacles.

Mitch advised *apprenticeship* programs can be used as a model to propose to other agencies who have programs that are going unused to decrease the unemployment rate in our population.

Strategic Plan: Next Steps: Chairperson, Mitch Cahn

- **Content Library (Marketing)**- Place all programs such as the apprenticeships, OJT, etc. online sorted by category which will be presented at the upcoming Board Meeting (9/21/17) The purpose is to promote it to other stakeholders in the community so they can link to it. Mitch, Jasmyne and Ida will be in charge of all the data entry while Michael and Farag volunteered to reach out to the approximately 150 programs and advise them they have a listing and if any corrections or additions need to be made they must do so. Mitch advised he will send the list of emails to both the volunteers so they can begin advising them. Mitch also wants them to reach out to the Talent Networks so they can begin promoting; Talent Network and apprenticeship must be added to the directory.
- **Marketing Assets of the Workforce and Workforce System to Employers**- The goal is to go to those organizations, plus a large number of employer organizations and ask for them to promote us in their newsletter so we can build our own employer database which we presently do not have. Evanthia and Jonathan volunteered to help promote our website to different organizations. They must build a list of all potential organizations and who must be contacted in regards to adding links or contents to potential stakeholders' website. Robert Grimmie is the Director of the Center for Occupational Employment Information at the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the person who should be contacted in regards to all the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development websites.
- **Work Readiness Credential (WRC)**- NJBIA and Department of Labor are both working on same project. NJBIA is working on work readiness and Department of Labor is working on including work readiness as a credential that could be certified by the state. Mitch will reach out and invite a member from NJBIA and Department of Labor to the next meeting. Evanthia advised the *Employer Opportunity Grant* is funding for customized skills training for workers and businesses. With the consent of NJBIA and Department of Labor a pilot study can be conducted, whereas the Work Readiness Credential and Employer Opportunity Grant can be used by an employer who is looking to hire a mass amount of employees at no cost.
- **Help Career Connections so they are more aligned with employer needs**- Promote Career Connections to applicants and provide literature to clerries to give out such as: churches, libraries, schools, food stamps and welfare office. Jonathan suggested a PowerPoint Presentation to events and conclude with a hardcopy so applicants may follow-up as reinforcement. Another suggestion made by Joseph was creating a video to educate applicants on how to use Career Connections and if a video is already created

then it should be pushed and promoted. Once promoted, the outcome can be studied and if need be, new strategies will be implemented to better promote career connections.

Donald M. Payne Sr. Vocational Technical School: Chairperson, Mitch Cahn

Mitch proposed that we assist and help align their curriculum with the employer's need of the community. This was approved by Willie and Farag. Mitch will add this initiative to the Strategic Plan.

Meeting adjourned by Willie Tolbert and Joseph Epps, Jr.

The next committee is scheduled for October 5, 2017