



APPRENTICESHIP ADVISORY COUNCIL

2:00 – 3:00 PM
Thursday, July 9, 2020
Zoom®
Helena, MT

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean Bentley (Chair), Barry Reddick, Chris Hopkins, Chris McGowan, Dale Carpenter, Margaret McManus, Scott Lemert, Mykal Jorgenson, Brock Tessman, and Vicki Dickinson

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Brock Tessman

STAFF: Shannon Lewis and Jay Reardon

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Chair Bentley called the meeting to order at 2:00.

ROLL CALL: Shannon Lewis conducted roll call and established a quorum.

AGENDA: Chair Bentley asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Ms. Dickinson moved, and Mr. Carpenter seconded a motion to approve the agenda.

The motion carried.

MAY 4, 2020 MEETING MINUTES: Chair Bentley asked for motion to approve the May 4, 2020 meeting minutes.

Mr. Hopkins moved, and Mr. McGowan seconded a motion to approve the January 30, 2020 meeting minutes.

The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS AND UPDATES:

Chair Bentley welcomed the council members and asked each member to give an update on their apprenticeship programs as well as an update on the impacts that COVID-19 has had on their programs and industry. Overall, apprenticeship programs continue to grow even during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of the apprenticeship programs were able to quickly change processes and conduct education and curriculum training online to ensure that apprentices are able to complete on time. In addition, some apprenticeship programs have changed their models to meet the needs of the healthcare response to the pandemic.

DISLOCATED WORKER APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITY – HOW ARE WE PUTTING PEOPLE BACK TO WORK:

Jay updated the council on Montana's Registered Apprenticeship Program's work on training and placement of dislocated workers due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout the state, the overwhelming number of dislocated workers were employed in the service sector and many will need some kind of reskilling to reenter the workforce or transition into different occupations. Currently, apprenticeship is one tool that Montana is leveraging to reskill dislocated workers; however, until Montana's economy is moving, and the pandemic is controlled, employers are not hiring or looking to train additional workers or bring in new apprentices. Montana's registered apprenticeship program is working with Montana's University System to develop apprenticeships and hybrid models to support growth in IT and support the digital economy.

APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM UPDATE:

Jay Reardon gave the council an update on the implementation of an Annual Apprenticeship Card, which will allow apprentices to validate that they are an active apprentice in a registered apprenticeship program throughout the state. He also updated the council on enrollments and cancellations of programs and apprentices that are unable to complete the education components of registered apprenticeship programs and cancellation of sponsors that are either inactive or not ensuring that apprentices complete the programs. Montana's apprenticeship grant funding will expire in October and they continue receiving requests for the funding to support apprenticeship startups and growth.

MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM CREDENTIAL AND APPRENTICESHIP UPDATE:

Brock Tessman updated the council on the University System's work on education delivery during COVID-19 and its work on developing industry-specific credentials and accelerated learning models that would allow for students to learn in a digital space and receive certifications that would allow them to enter into meaningful employment. Some of the accelerated learning models could incorporate registered apprenticeship as a component to allow for employers to design credentials and certificates that are specific to their needs.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Bentley adjourned the meeting at 3:00 PM.