



APPRENTICESHIP ADVISORY COUNCIL

10:00 – 11:00 AM
Tuesday, November 17, 2020
Microsoft Teams®
Helena, MT

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean Bentley (Chair), Barry Reddick, Brock Tessman, Chris McGowan, Margaret McManus, Scott Lemert, Vicki Dickinson

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Dale Carpenter, Mykal Jorgenson

STAFF: Shannon Lewis and Jay Reardon

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Chair Bentley called the meeting to order at 10:00.

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

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

Mr. Tessman moved, and Mr. Reddick seconded a motion to approve the agenda.

The motion carried.

JULY 9, 2020 MEETING MINUTES: Chair Bentley asked for motion to approve the July 9, 2020 meeting minutes.

Ms. Dickinson moved, and Mr. Tessman seconded a motion to approve the July 9, 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. 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.

OVERVIEW OF MONTANA'S 2020 APPRENTICESHIP REPORT:

Nicholas Holom, an economist with the Montana Department of Labor & Industry gave the council an update on Montana's Registered Apprenticeship Program. Overall, apprenticeship continues to grow throughout the state and the number of both apprenticeship and sponsors is growing. In addition, new apprenticeship occupations are growing as employers continue looking for solutions to worker shortages.

GROWING IT APPRENTICESHIPS:

George Parisot discussed his work at the Montana Department of Labor & Industry targeted at evaluating skills gaps and meeting the challenges of recruiting, training, and developing a skilled workforce to meet employer needs in the IT sector. He's currently working with the state of Montana to internally develop IT apprenticeships to meet the challenges of hiring talent within state government. There is significant interest across the state with employers, both IT-specific, and tangentially with growing technically-proficient talent as work continues to evolve and these skills are critically important to meeting challenges presented with the future of work.

MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM GEER FUNDING AND WORKFORCE COORDINATION:

Brock Tessman updated the council on the University System's GEER funding, which was allocated to campuses based on proposals designed to meet workforce challenges or align workforce and education to meet industry needs. In addition, he updated the council on two prospective grants designed to add additional funding to help align education and workforce training.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Bentley adjourned the meeting at 11:00 AM.