



## **APPRENTICESHIP ADVISORY COUNCIL**

11:00 – 12:00 PM  
Tuesday, February 2, 2021  
Zoom®  
Helena, MT

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dean Bentley (Chair), Barry Reddick, Brock Tessman, Chris Hopkins, Chris McGowan, Dale Carpenter, Margaret McManus, Mykal Jorgenson, Vicki Dickenson

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Scott Lemert

**STAFF:** Shannon Lewis and Jay Reardon

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** Chair Bentley called the meeting to order at 11:00.

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

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

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

***The motion carried.***

**NOVEMBER 17, 2020 MEETING MINUTES:** Chair Bentley asked for motion to approve the November 17, 2020 meeting minutes.

***Ms. McManus moved, and Mr. Jorgenson seconded a motion to approve the November 17ed, 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 throughout the state and across industries. While council members continue to exercise caution on training delivery and worksites, most employers and training providers have fully recovered from any dip that happened during the pandemic.

#### **APPRENTICESHIP RATIOS ZOOM MEETING UPDATE:**

Jay Reardon updated the council on the Montana Department of Labor & Industry's public meeting on apprenticeship ratios. The meeting was attended by 70-75 individuals

from across the state and the recording is saved for folks who want to listen. Some council members were also able to attend the meeting to listen to the discussion. Apprenticeship ratios will continue to be a topic of interest and based on the comments and discussion during the meeting there will be additional future opportunities to bring industry partners back together to have more dialogue.

#### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:**

Scott Eychner discussed workforce packages moving forward in the Montana Legislature. Two bills, HB 282 and HB 283 revise laws related to student workers. Should these two bills pass it would make it easier for employers to hire student workers and hopefully grow work-based learning opportunities for students across the state. HB 284 is a living wage bill, and would impact workers across the state by increasing wages. HB 45 provides tax credits for employers who pay to upskill their current employees. The tax credit is a complimentary program to the existing Incumbent Worker Training Program.

#### **UPDATE ON FEDERAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP:**

Jay Reardon and Scott Eychner reviewed the letter that the state of Montana submitted regarding the new reporting requirements for registered apprenticeship programs. The proposed federal reporting requirements would require states to submit additional data on completion, placement, wages, and other measures that are not currently required for registered apprenticeship programs. The additional requirements would not only add an additional burden to state agencies, but also to employer sponsors and may disincentivize employers from using registered apprenticeship as a training model for training employees.

#### **SWIB UPDATE:**

Shannon Lewis updated the apprenticeship council on the playbooks being designed by the SWIB to highlight promising practices that Montana employers are using to help with recruitment, retention, and internal corporate culture to become employers of choice in the state. She also let the apprenticeship council know that the full board will meet in June in Big Timber.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Bentley adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM.