

**Vermont State Workforce Development Board**

Manufacturing Committee - Meeting Minutes

February 13th, 2023

1:00 – 2:00 pm

**Committee Members in Attendance**: Robynn Albert, Kiersten Bourgeois, Monica Greene, Veronica Newton, Doreen Audette, Barry Hulce

**Guests in Attendance**: Victoria Biondolillo, Abigail Rhim

Introductions/General Updates

Tori noted her return to the State Workforce Development Board. She shared that the Board staff will provide bi-weekly legislative updates and weekly office hours to discuss any workforce related matters.

State Workforce Development Board Strategic Plan

Tori began by sharing that the Board staff is working on a strategic plan. Just last week, the Board’s Operating Committee voted and approved the plan’s goals. The goals will shortly be presented at the Board’s upcoming quarterly board meeting on February 16th. Within the strategic plan, each of the Board’s committees will have a one-pager which lays out the committee’s individual charge and goals for the next year or two. This is what the committee will discuss today.

Manufacturing Committee’s One-Pager

Tori noted that within the one-pager, a partnership between the Manufacturing Committee, Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center (VMEC) and Vermont Talent Pipeline (VTP) could be included. This collaboration could help compliment ongoing efforts throughout the state between the three entities. She also mentioned another high-level goal of the one-pager could be a rebranding effort of manufacturing as an entire industry in order to attract new talent to the field.

Veronica highlighted the importance of focusing not only on K through 12 or K through 16 but beyond. For example, the need to address mature workers, veterans, etc.

Barry stressed the importance of details and alignment in these efforts.

Kiersten added the need to address regional differences across the state. What is needed in Franklin County is very different than what is needed in Bennington County.

Doreen stressed the assistance of VMEC in order to make connections with those in the manufacturing industry.

Barry added that MasTec is going through a similar rebranding effort. He suggested the groups connect.

Monica highlighted that while many pipelines are targeted towards the top five to 10 positions in the state, what about support staff?

Doreen asked about on the job training funding.

Robynn suggested she connect with John Young (john.young@vermont.gov), the Director of the Vermont Training Program.

Tori shared that she would take into consideration the feedback provided today and circulate the one-pager to the group.

Closing Thoughts

The group will reconvene in a month to a month and a half.

Respectfully submitted by Abigail Rhim.

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Abigail Rhim

*Deputy Director*, Vermont State Workforce Development Board