



**Missouri Workforce Development Board
Executive Committee
July 28, 2020 12 p.m.-1 p.m.
Conference Call Meeting**

Members Present: Chair Len Toenjes, Cara Canon, Dr. John Gaal

Guest Attendees: Ronda Anderson, Julie Carter, Kristie Davis, Lisa Elrod, Dr. Mara Woody, Yvonne Wright

SWD Staff: Dr. Mardy Leathers, Mark Bauer, Allyssa Miget

Call to Order and Welcome: Chair Len Toenjes called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM and welcomed everyone.

Roll Call: Allyssa Miget conducted roll call and declared a quorum.

SWD Vice Chair Nominations: Chair Toenjes opened the floor for any Vice Chair nominations to serve on the State Workforce Development Board. Dr. John Gaal nominated Cara Canon. Chair Toenjes asked for a motion to close the nomination, Dr. John Gaal moved to close the nomination. Cara Canon thanked Chair Toenjes and Dr. John Gaal. Chair Toenjes added that Cara would bring great perspective to the meetings as Vice Chair.

Re-Imagine Workforce Grant (RIG): Dr. Leathers thanked Cara and appreciates her rising to the occasion. Dr. Leathers thanked each of the Executive Committee members for their commitment to serve. Formally called the Education Stabilization Fund – Reimagine Workforce Preparation (ESF-RWP) Grants Program, the United States Department of Education (USDOE) has an opportunity for state workforce development boards to apply for a grant with approximately \$120 million available nationwide. The applicant for this grant must be a state workforce development board and Governor Parson has requested the State Workforce Development Board (SWD) partner with the Office of Workforce Development (OWD) and the Department of Economic Development (DED) to lead this initiative.

For this grant, there are two priorities, but OWD proposes supporting how to expand educational opportunities through short-term training and education, and support entrepreneurship. This grant will focus on in-demand short-term training. Short-term training is defined as 8-12 months with the possibility for the participant to continue their education afterwards through a career pathway.

The grant will be awarded to 8-9 organizations or state workforce development boards, for a total of 3 years for the grant period. USDOE plans to announce grant awards in October of 2020. The grant requires the following measures: employment rate six months and twelve months after completing the program, credential attainment, measureable skills gain, and median wages.

To draft the grant there are several members across the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (DHEWD) and DED. These members include: Dr. Mardy Leathers, Dr. Mara Woody, Kristie Davis, Yvonne Wright, Gerren McHam, Ronda Anderson, Mark Bauer, and Allyssa Miget. This working group report directly to Director Rob Dixon and Commissioner Zora Mulligan. Only July 13th, a letter of intent was submitted to USDOE.

SWD Executive Committee will have the opportunity to review and approve on August 18th for final submission on August 24th to grants.gov.

For this grant opportunity, it is proposed to grow middle skills through higher education. This grant will target Missourians receiving unemployment benefits, dislocated workers, and incumbent workers. OWD has solicited the Missouri Community College Association (MCCA) to work with colleges across the state to support training in patient care technician, certified nursing assistant, and medical billing and coding. University of Missouri-Extension has 114 locations, in every county and work closely with small businesses. Therefore, MU Extension will support entrepreneur courses and management courses. Lastly, Lincoln University and Harris Stowe State University will work together to support public safety and cyber security courses as Missouri's two Historically Black Colleges/Universities.

Further, the goal is to align employment, training and education to support Missouri's economic growth and supporting middle skills gaps. This proposal is not re-inventing the wheel but leveraging programs that are already successful.

Chair Toenjes opened the floor for any feedback.

Dr. Gaal asked is there a way to cast a wider net in healthcare to support the community health worker? Many of Missouri's community colleges have a community health worker program that could be supported with these efforts. It is clear in various industries mental health needs to be supported in addition to physical safety. Chair Toenjes commented that this would bring MCCA to the forefront of the grant application.

Dr. Leathers responded that OWD will work with MCCA to ensure community health worker is included.

Chair Toenjes added that it is great to include Lincoln University and Harris Stowe State University as partners in the grant.

Cara Canon commented that there is a strong needs for geriatric care in southwest and central Missouri, and there are not many programs supporting this occupation. How can this be supported? Dr. Leathers responded that there is not a lot of conversation on this, but welcomes SWD engagement on this. Chair Toenjes recommended mentioning this to MCCA during the 3p call.

Chair Toenjes asked how much will be asked for this grant? Dr. Leathers responded the entire \$20 million allocation will be requested.

Questions, Comments & Closing Remarks:

Dr. Leathers thanked the SWD Executive Committee for their council and communication throughout this process to solicit feedback.

Adjourned: 12:35 PM