

**Office of Economic Development**  
EDAB Workforce Sub-Committee  
MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 15, 2009: 9:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jo Wilson, Chair  
Steve Shope  
Jared Langkilde  
Kari Cluff

STAFF PRESENT

Mike Paredes

**1. Chair's Call To Order**

Chairperson Jo Wilson called the October 15, 2009 meeting of the EDAB Workforce Subcommittee to order at 9:30 A.M. at the Mesa City Plaza, 20 E. Main St., Ste. 200 Mesa, Arizona 85201.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Jo Wilson called for the approval of the December 12, 2008 minutes with corrections. Approved.

**3. Review of Sub-Committee Roles**

Chair Wilson spoke about what role the sub-committee should take. Explained how Mesa Community College role in workforce development has been re-established and taking a more proactive approach to programs and responding to business community needs. She further explained how she and Mike Paredes are working closely with the Workforce Development Alliance group and establishing workforce linkages out in the business community.

Jared Langkilde suggested working with the city's Washington DC lobbyists to get some type of workforce federal dollars at the local level.

Steve Shope spoke on how he has found it difficult to find Ph.D. level workers and that there is a great need in the private industry of such skill set level. He has seen a number of students leave the area for the simple fact that ASU Poly does not have a Ph.D. level program. More specifically Applied Psychology.

Discussion went on in the area of a possible recommendation to the Economic Development Board (EDAB) for ASU Poly to establish Ph.D. programs at the campus.

Discussion of 'green' jobs.

#### **4. Discussion of possible initiatives for the Sub-Committee**

Chair Wilson asked the group, what do we want to take on as a group? The Sub-Committee discussed the following initiatives that they could undertake:

- Encouragement of establishing Ph.D. programs at ASU Poly
- Initiate process for the development of a training and education resource guide for prospect companies

Chair Wilson discussed an establishment of a Rapid Response Team to go out and assist out-going businesses with workforce solutions and keeping the workforce in Mesa.

Chair Wilson also explained that she would like for Shea Joachim to come in at the next meeting and give a business registry update.

Jared Langkilde further explained how possibly not only a reactive approach, but a proactive approach with working with incoming companies. A “Welcome to Mesa” approach in assisting them.

Kari Cluff explained her role with Salt River Project and how she works with local Chamber groups representing SRP. She explained a program called High Tech U, where high school students have a 3-day program to do activities. Meet at local community colleges, companies. Average 35 students per session.

#### **5. Discussion of membership of the Sub-Committee**

A discussion on new possible members to invite:

- Leah Palmer – Mesa Community College
- Sally Downing - EVIT
- Dave Schwalm –ASU Poly
- Craig Henry – Express Employment Professionals

Steve Shope will write a draft of a resolution for Ph.D. programs at ASU Poly. He will have it ready by next meeting for discussion, suggestions, and any changes to be made.

#### **6. Adjournment**

Chair Wilson adjourned the meeting at 10:45 A.M.

Submitted By:

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William J. Jabjiniak  
Economic Development Department Director  
(Prepared by Mike Paredes)