

Northeast Minnesota
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD MEETING
Iron Range Resources – Eveleth
Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Regularly scheduled meeting called to order by Chair Stone at 10:15 a.m.

WIB members present:

Bud Stone, Jill Anderson, Sue Collins, Betsy Harmon, Dave Hart, Tom Jamar,
Terri Nystrom, Roland Root

Excused: Paul Carlson, Barb Hilde, Craig Pagel, Allen Rasmussen, Al Rudeck, Mike Valentine,
Kelly Zink

Absent: John Grahek, Jeff Lee

Guests: Tom Norman (DEED), Roy Smith (IRR/ALI)

Staff: Michelle Ufford, Randy Back, Renee' Marconett

Motion was made by Root, supported by Anderson to approve the January 29, 2014 minutes as written; motion carried unanimously.

Ufford introduced new Operations Director Randy Back. He is replacing Ray Garmaker, who retired after 35 years with the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training. Randy previously worked as a Career Counselor in the Duluth office.

DEED Update

Tom Norman, Director of Workforce Development

Director Norman gave an update of what is happening across the state. He outlined two proposals on the agenda at the legislative level. The Statewide Measurement Program will research return on investment for state-funded programs, and the Woman's Economic Security Initiative developed by the University of Minnesota in conjunction with a coalition of other groups that will develop a variety of ways to help place women in non-traditional /high paying jobs.

Discussion continued with board members interacting and asking various questions regarding workforce development. Norman commented on a workforce shortage due to retirements and non-graduating high school students and the multiple forces that will make every one's job more interesting and challenging. A way to address these challenges is through local and private partnerships looking at ways for creative and unique ways to manage this process and provide resources. Business Service Specialists work regionally and statewide for outreach services and discuss skill sets with employers. Lengthy discussion continued on involving disabled individuals in workforce development and the role of postsecondary training.

Northeast Career EdVenture Program

Michelle Ufford

The Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training is one of four pilot sites across the state operating a career advising program for secondary schools, known locally as Northeast Career EdVenture. Handouts were distributed outlining the NE Career EdVenture menu of services and activity report for September 2013 through February 2014. 750 students have received individual, personalized services. Free services are available to classrooms, groups, or school wide and resources are divided by grade level. The main focus is on 9th-12th grade, with CEO's in the Classroom for 8th graders. Specific topics students are talking to counselors about include accessing online career exploration tools, career

assessments, job search/resumes/applications, Workforce Center tours/information, post-secondary training and financial aid, and transition from high school planning.

Workforce service areas across the state are interested in using our logo and concept for this program across the state. Ufford informed the board an extreme amount of time and effort has been put into this project and asked for additional comments and suggestions in going forward. The board commended Ufford on the success of this program and supported an expansion of the model by sharing the logo, menu, and materials as needed.

Applied Learning Initiative (ALI)

Roy Smith

The Applied Learning Institute (ALI) prepares students of all ages to be highly trained, knowledgeable workers who are equipped with the technical and problem-solving skills necessary in our every-changing world. Smith updated board members of the progress the ALI has made over the past year. Currently, 17 northeast Minnesota schools districts with 25 high schools and the five colleges of the Northeast Higher Education District (NHED) participate in ALI. The main programs of study are Industrial Technology, Pre-Engineering, Construction Trades, Advanced Automotive, and Health Care. Student success rate include a 97% placement in the Millwright program and 93% placement in welding program at Mesabi Range College; 70 individuals employed in the region from the Engineering program at Itasca Community College, and 40 new BS Degree Engineers from Iron Range Engineering. Business and Industry partners are also instrumental in the delivery of technical education to all ALI students. Many industry representative serve as mentors in ALI programs, providing students valuable real-world experience.

Education Innovation Partners (EIP)

Roy Smith

The Education Innovation Partners (IEP) was formed with three objectives in mind: provide students with individual career maps, help teachers and administrators collaborate between districts on best practices, and develop a regional technology plan. The goal is to help students explore careers while simultaneously making the same educational opportunities available to all of them, whether they attend a small, rural school or a large one. The colleges will benefit from the partnership as well because students with access to best practice teaching and more opportunities in high school will graduate better prepared for college.

Northeast Regional STEM Collaborative Update

Michelle Ufford

Ufford is a co-chair on the leadership team for the Northeast Region Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Network. The Minnesota STEM Network engages practitioners, employers, funders, and advocates of STEM for all sectors in order to create a system perspective for improving STEM education and workforce development. The main goals of the Minnesota STEM Network are to increase engagement in education, build communities among stakeholders, promote STEM, share practices and resources, and improve communication. A proposal has been submitted through the Bush Foundation for a two year grant in the amount of \$200,000. The money would be used to hire a community organizer. This person would be in charge of keeping the Network going and getting more stakeholders to the table. 587 proposals were submitted. Ufford will update the board when more information is received.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. Next WIB meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 28, 2014.