

**Minutes of the
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING**

January 12, 2022

Members Present: Danny Morgan, Jillian Bray, Steve Valencia, Travis Hurst, Sheri Snyder, Rob Miles, Joyce Burch, Charles Harrison, Natasha Edison, Jordyn Frazier, Lei Moore, Ron Cambiano, Samantha Lankford, Lisa Fisher, Krystal Lane, John Claybon, Jaime Henson, Anne Brooks, Kelsey Martin, Laura Butler, Amy Ford, Patricia Perdue,

Guests: Anne Wetmore, Jennifer Cowns, Kevin Shand, Debbie Blanke, Joel Dean, Cass Minx

1. Welcome and Introduction of all members and Guests: Laura Butler

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 pm

2. Registered Apprenticeships: Cassidy Minx

a. OK Works Registered Apprenticeships: Jennifer Cowns

Jennifer Cowns walked us all through the Registered Apprenticeship grants and processes ran through Oklahoma Works. The PowerPoint presentations are attached.

To develop a registered apprenticeship program you first have to find partners, create partnerships and then build a program. The five core components of an apprenticeship are: Building a program for your business, setting up n the job learning, including related instruction, ensuring rewards for skill gains, and completing a national occupational credential.

It is important to connect with the Oklahoma Office of Workforce development and the IS department of Labor to register your program. There are currently 3 different grants in the Oklahoma Office that can help fund an apprenticeship. More information can be found at www.apprenticeshipsok.com or by contacting Jennifer Cowns.

The apprenticeship programs address workforce shortages, connect closer with what employers need, and assist with recruitment and diversity in the industry.

b. H-CAP Healthcare Apprenticeships: Anne Wetmore

Anne Wetmore said H-CAP began as a labor management group working strictly on training that would benefit the employers and workers both, but has since expanded. It has existed for 20 years and from that work we have partnerships in 6 states and 550,000 workers in training programs. In 2016 they were awarded a contract to assist states with expansion of healthcare apprenticeships.

H-CAP provides technical assistance to develop registered apprenticeship programs in this field, but are not a replacement for the state or federal apprenticeship organizations. For more information contact Ann Wetmore at Anne.wetmore@hcap.org . The PowerPoint is attached.

3. Review and Approval of Nov. 3rd Minutes: Laura Butler

Motion Made by Jordyn Frazier and Seconded by Pete Seldon. Minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Regents Update: Cassidy Minx

Since the last meeting the Regents have selected and our new Chancellor Allisson Garrett has started. We are in the process of hiring a new vice chancellor of government relations (Jarret Jobe has since began).

Cassidy also explained the differences in regents staff roles. Joel is primarily on the legislative side of things working with the bills, committee meetings etc. and directly under the VC of Government Relations. Where Cassidy is on the Data side of things working with SPA to provide statistic and specific information on everything Higher Ed, Workforce, employment outcomes, quality jobs etc.. They both work on EDC events like RBPEA and facilitate the meetings.

5. Legislative Update: Joel Dean

The bill filing deadline is Jan. 20 and the first Day of session is Feb 7.

Higher Ed Day is scheduled for Feb. 15 we will have a space in front of the House Chamber for check-ins and Room 4S.3 (Old room 112) for paperwork and supplies. The event will take place at 1:30pm in the afternoon

6. Film industry: Joel Dean

a. Cherokee Film Institute and OSU-Tulsa: Kevin Shand

This was moved up on the agenda in appreciation of our guest's time.

Kevin Shand said that until recently for Film Oklahoma has always been a flyover state. For the last 3-5 years it has been gaining momentum. This is largely due to getting better film incentives.

Cherokee Nation is trying to address the workforce and infrastructure needs for the industry. They have a five-year partnership with OSU-Tulsa to develop a series of courses. They are primarily offering and teaching non-credit courses which is fine because that's what we need right now in Oklahoma. In the future we will need more core credit degrees in the field but at the moment there is no one path to working in the film industry. They don't require college education for most of the work but the need to be trained in the film industry. And then the higher ups the writing and directing etc. needs formal education. Right now, we are trying to get as many people as possible trained to do the production work, film scouting, set building, etc.

We have paid for students to attend 5 week intensives on Grip and electric work, and production 101 courses. WE are building classes on screen writing that we have paid for and starting larger classes in February where we will offer full scholarships for members of federally recognized tribes. We just need people out there trained and the faster we can do it the better it will be.

Oklahoma needs to beef up its workforce in this industry to continue to make it an attractive place to bring production. We have the sound stages and the technology and the locations but we don't have the manpower.

colleges need to think about encouraging or explaining that many skillsets and expertise they are already teaching can apply to the film industry. They need to be explaining that working in film is a viable option in the state. With the expansion of micro-credentialing there should be opportunity to apply film industry specifics to classes and degrees so that students have a leg up and employers have something to look for when building out their film crews.

7. ARPA Funding Discussion. How can ARPA funds be applied on a system wide level: Laura

Butler

ARPA is \$1.87 billion allocated for investments into projects that will benefit all Oklahomans. The three Goals the Joint Committee on Pandemic Relief funding outlined are:

- Build a stronger, more innovative, and more diverse Oklahoma economy.
- Enhance capabilities of state services for the wellbeing of all citizens, especially the most vulnerable.
- Invest in physical and digital infrastructure to expand opportunities across Oklahoma.

Funding must be allocated by December 2024 and spent by December 2026. We are looking for ideas for proposal submissions. With the third goal specifically, there is a lot of room for targeted economic development.

These projects also must be self-sustainable, cannot require additional grants.

Suggestions from the EDC include a STEM/Engineering degree growth like the Nursing one that has already been submitted.

This topic will be revisited in future meetings please think of ways to utilize these funds.

There is an updated employment outcome report that will be going out shortly to help with these proposals. Contact Cass if you need it early.

8. RBPEA update and reminders: Regents Staff

With the Covid numbers growing the March 9th date may need to go totally virtual we have until Feb. 9th to cancel without penalty. There will be a poll going out close to that date to decide if we are going to cancel the even.

The Submission deadline is Jan. 26 special thanks to the first to get their submission in Connors State College.

9. Other Business

We will have an executive meeting after the deadline (Jan. 27) to discuss submissions and RBPEA strategy.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was Adjourned at 4 p.m. Motion was made by John Claybon and Seconded by Jillian Bray.