

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
Board of Directors
Of
Northern Illinois Workforce Alliance, Inc.**
(The Workforce Investment Board serving Boone, Winnebago and Stephenson Counties)
And Chief Elected Officials

Tuesday, September 15, 2015
RMAP Regional Design Center, 315 N. Main Street
Rockford, IL 61101

- I. Board Meeting Call to Order:** Chairman Karen Brown called the Northern Illinois Workforce Alliance Board of Directors meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

Board Members Present: Eric Black, Karen Brown, Linda Campos, Len Carter, Michelle Cassaro, Angela Hite-Carter, Len Carter, Gary Evans, Lori Fanello, Jerry Guinane, Brian Halsted, Greg Harle, June Hazzard, Angela Hite-Carter, Vanessa Hughes, Paul Logli, Beverly Long, Brad Long, Mike Mastroianni, Mike Nicolas, Amy Ott, Frank Rotello, Amanda Smith, Craig Steege, Mark Stefanic, Tim Hood, Cindy Waddick, Shirley Walker, Kim Wichman, Michael Williams, Dave Young.

CEO Members Present: Jim Ryan (City of Rockford), Bob Walberg (Boone County)

NIWA Staff Present: Darcy Bucholz, Cathy Cornelius, Pam Fettes, Robert Jones, Jr., John Strandin, Janet Williams.

Guests and Partner Staff Present: Tom Austin, Kathy Bellone, Mark Bonne, Pauline Box, Sue Carmichael, Bunny Craig, Darryl Cummings, Tiffany Currier, George Davis, Marcia Derer, Ted Duckett, Jim Duhigg, Neeley Erickson, Courtney Geiger, Cindy Gordon, Margie Hartfiel, Steve Haight, Jeff Hefty, Amy Heilman, Amy Hesselbacher, Cheryl Metcalf, Nedisa Music, Jen Newendyke, Akanksha Patel, Ann Schneider, Amanda Smith, Mark Spain, Meggy Tibbetts, John Walsh, Dan White,

Welcome: Karen Brown welcomed everyone and thanked the meeting sponsors:

Alpha Controls
Rasmussen College
FHN
First National Bank
Highland Community College
Hughes Resources

Karen also introduced the Chief Elected Officials, Adam Kinsinger's office representative and thanked the staff for their continued good work.

In the past year the Northern Illinois Workforce Alliance spent nearly \$2 million on tuition, scholarships, and job training in Boone, Stephenson and Winnebago counties. With 200 individuals completing training and earning credentials preparing them for jobs in high demand areas such as manufacturing, healthcare, transportation, information technology and many more. More than 15,000 people used the free services that are available in The Workforce Connection centers in Rockford, Freeport and Belvidere. They searched for jobs, they learned about job opportunities and training, they got help filing for Unemployment benefits, they received

assistance with their resumes, they attended workshops and computer training classes. We connected with more than 350 area employers through job listings and job fairs, on the job training, and work experience programs and other community partnerships. All this information is available in our Annual Report.

- II. **Recognition of Program Award Winners:** Mark Stefanic introduced leaders of each of the programs who presented awards to the award winners. Each year we submit the names to IL Workforce Partnership, association of workforce professionals, of individuals and programs that we believe deserve recognition because of their achievements along the road to success. Award winners include Jacob Von Huben, Mamboleo Kahindo, Sauravong Luangphakdy and Ann Schneider.
- III. **Recognition of Outgoing Board Members:** Andrew Chesney, Len Carter, Angela Hite-Carter, Luanna Grimes, Cindy Waddick, Lynn Godina, Dr. Ehren Jarrett, Mark Podemski, Dr. Joe Kanosky, Michael Williams, Eloy Salazar, Paul Calvagna, Grant Nyhammer, Sara Dady, Jesus Saez-Gimeno, Shirley Burks, Kelly Lattimer.
- IV. **Recognition of McDonald's Corporation:** Amy Ott recognized McDonald's Corporation for all their efforts and donations toward the GED Program. The GED Initiative launched in 2011. The GED Initiative also led to a new program through Goodwill of Northern Illinois. The Good Grads program is designed to help individuals seeking to obtain their GED overcome some of the barriers, including the cost of the GED exam, child care, transportation, work conflicts and additional preparation. McDonald's of Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois presented Goodwill of Northern Illinois with a check toward this program. Sam Schmitz accepted on behalf of the Goodwill of Northern Illinois board of directors.
- V. **Regional Workforce Needs Presentation:** Karen Brown presented information on the Workforce needs of our region. What is the future of our workforce? Karen, along with Tom Austin, presented data on the current state of our workforce. What is the demand and how do we fill the gap between available workforce and demand.
- VI. **Moving Ahead as Partners:** Darcy Bucholz talked about some options for alignment under WIOA and how to use the multiple resources that are out there. Darcy shared what she interprets the new law to be trying to implement.
- VI. **Change is Coming – Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act:** Darcy Bucholz gave an overview of the new act which was signed into law on July 22, 2014. She covered some of the Programs under WIOA, some of the reforms to the Public Workforce System, and changes to governance, planning, one-stop operations, services for Adults/Dislocated Workers, Youth Services. Also covered were the effects of the Act on services to employers, and accountability. The implementation timeline for the Act were also covered. She explained that the board would be receiving additional information as it was made available. A resource page is available at www.doleta.gov/WIOA.
- VII. **Board Member Comments:** None
- VIII. **Public Comments:** None
- IX. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:56.