**Technology Talent Advisory Committee Meeting**

***Meeting Notes***

**Department of Economic and Community Development**

December 8, 2021

3:00 – 4:00 PM

**Microsoft TEAMS Meeting**

**Attendance**

* Advisory Committee Members Present: Alexandra Daum, Matt Mervis, Dan Viens, Jessica Dodge, Sanguthevar Rajasekaran, Jennifer Widness
* Quorum: Yes
* Absent: Kelli Vallieres, Lisa Jacobi, Karen Wosczyna-Birch
* Presenters/Guests: Niall Dammando (Office of Workforce Strategy); Al Bhatt (District Arts & Education); Moira Smith (General Assembly Space); Priya Ramanathan (General Assembly Space); Beth Koback (Tech Talent South); Steve Guglietta (COCC); Andrew Droney (CT House Republicans); Wendy Robicheau (Board of Regents for Higher Ed.); Alex Johnson (Capital Workforce Partners); Ben Hensley (Capital Workforce Partners); Michael Thomas (NEBHE); Charlotte Peyser (NEBHE); Sheridan Miller (NEBHE); Stephanie Blochinger (BHEF); Brian Fitzgerald (BHEF); Frank Avery (BHEF)
* DECD Staff: Carmen Molina-Rios, Beth Trenchard

**Welcome and Introductions**

Alexandra Daum opened the meeting at 3:03 PM and asked all participants for introductions.

**Office of Workforce Strategy Update: CareerConneCT**

Niall Dammando provided an overview of the CareerConneCT initiative. The first phase, supported by American Rescue Plan funding, is primarily designed to support getting individuals affected by Covid-19 back to work through training programs designed that provide reskilling, upskilling or next-skilling opportunities through industry recognized credentials that create pathways to employment in high quality, in-demand careers.

**Capital Workforce Partners and Merit America program**

Alex Johnson provided an overview of the Merit America IT Support program which offers participants the opportunity to receive IT training and earn industry-recognized credentials from Google over the 14-week program.

**New England Board of Higher Education and Business-Higher Education Forum initiative**

Michael Thomas and Frank Avery provided an overview of the CT Higher Education – Tech Talent Accelerator program. The program will increase the supply of in-demand technology programs, credentials and graduates in the state and boost the competitiveness of Connecticut’s public and independent higher education institutions.

**Update on Tech Talent Fund Programs**

Staff from Tech Talent, General Assembly Space and District Arts & Education provided updates on their respective programs.

**Financial Portfolio Update**

Alexandra Daum provided an overview of the current Tech Talent fund and highlighted the balance remaining in the fund.

**Wrap Up**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 9, 2022, from 3-4 PM.

**Meeting Closed**

Alexandra Daum closed the meeting at 4:00 PM.