**Manufacturing Innovation Advisory Board**

***Meeting Minutes***

**Department of Economic and Community Development**

June 16, 2022

1:00 -2:30 PM

***via Teams Meeting***

**Attendance**

* Board Members Present: Paul Lavoie, Colin Cooper, Mike Rocheleau, John Zoldy, Don Balducci, Mark Burzynski, Chris DiPentima, Emir Redzic
* Board Members Absent: Kelli Vallieres, Beverlee Dacey
* Quorum: Yes
* Stakeholders & Guests: Bernice Zampano (DOL), Todd Berch (DOL), Ron Angelo (CCAT), Paul Striebel (CCAT), John Glidden (CCAT), Mary Bidwell (CSCU), Richard Dupont (CSCU), Beatriz Gutierrez (CONNSTEP), Jeff Orszak (CONNSTEP), Mike Stimson (CONNSTEP), Russell Robitaille (CT Digital Services), Onyeka Obiocha (CT Next), Laura Teicher (FORGE)
* DECD Staff: Carmen Molina-Rios, Michelle Hall, Beth Trenchard

**Welcome**

Paul Lavoie opened the meeting at 1:04 PM.

**Minutes (Vote)**

Mike Rocheleau moved to have the April 21, 2022; meeting minutes approved. Colin Cooper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**College Connections (Vote)**

Mary Bidwell and Richard Dupont provided an update on the status of the College Connections program noting there were 75 enrollments in the 21/22 school year. There is currently an unexpended balance of approximately $240,000.

They are requesting an extension to continue the program utilizing the current available funding. This request is to use an alternate funding model that is cohort-based (maintaining the 50% match) rather than based on individual student registration. Additionally, they are requesting funding to expand the program and would like to change the name of the program from College Connections to the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Pathways program. Discussion ensued among Board members.

Mike Rocheleau requested that they provide additional program metrics addressing measures of success and outcomes of program participants. Colin Cooper requested that CSCU articulate their strategy to increase enrollment at the next Board meeting.

As a result of the discussion, the following was voted upon:

*Approval to extend the current agreement through June 30, 2023, to allow full expenditure of funds and continue the College Connections program under a new, cohort-based model.*

Mike Rocheleau motioned, and Mark Burzynski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**CT Innovators (Vote)**

Laura Teicher provided an overview of the FORGE CT proposal. From initial prototyping and design through manufacturing at scale, FORGE helps startups and innovators prepare and connectwith local suppliers to establish early working relationships and increase readiness to scale production together. They are requesting $500,000 in funding. Discussion ensued among Board members.

Colin Cooper inquired if CTNext has made a funding commitment to the program. Onyeka Obiocha replied that the CTNext Board has approved $500,000 in support of the program.

As a result of the discussion, the following was voted upon:

*Approval to accept the FORGE CT proposal in conjunction with CTNext and provide funding of $500,000.*

Mike Rocheleau motioned, and Colin Cooper seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Engineering Internship Program**

Ron Angelo provided an update on the Engineering Internship Program. The cohort-based program is focused on attracting 50 rising sophomores through senior undergraduate engineering students. It provides an internship experience within approximately 15 small to mid-sized manufacturing (SMM) companies in the Connecticut supply chain. The program was announced at the CT Manufacturing, Engineering & Technical (MET) Career Fair held at Quinnipiac University on April 5th. Mr. Angelo reviewed the schedule of events for the pilot program underway this summer.

**Manufacturing Voucher Program**

Paul Striebel provided an update on the Voucher Program, highlighting the new program parameters. The website has been updated with the new guidelines for the program. Nineteen applications have been received since CCAT resumed processing applications on May 10th.

**Manufacturing Website**

Jeff Orszak and Russell Robitaille provided an update on the status of the website project.

They discussed the current timeline for completion of the data collection, website design and implementation. Completion of the preliminary website design is targeted for mid-September.

**Update on Programs/Initiatives**

Paul Lavoie provided updates on the following MIF initiatives:

Hearts & Minds Advertising Campaign

Apprenticeship Program

Incumbent Worker Training Program

Digital Transformation/Cyber Security Roadmaps

Regional Career Fairs

Manufacturing Strategic Plan for CT

The Board anticipates CSCU will present an overview of the approach and content of the Hearts & Minds Ad campaign at the August Board meeting.

CONNSTEP noted that the SIRI/Cyber program allows for other Industry 4.0 assessments and, therefore, is not limited to SIRI certified assessors. Some businesses will need other assessment platforms that do not require certification. CONNSTEP will provide information on the other targeted platforms at a future Board meeting.

**Portfolio**

**Review of Investments to Date**

Paul Lavoie provided an overview of the funding status of the major programs and administrative expenditures, including the current unexpended amounts for each MIF program.

**Planning for FY 23 Investments**

$10 million for FY 22 (7/1/2021 to 6/30/2022) was authorized at the 7/23/21 State Bond Commission (SBC) meeting. An additional $10 million will be requested for authorization at the July SBC meeting.

Colin Cooper referenced previous Board discussions to shift funding for workforce development initiatives from MIF to the Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS) and suggested it would be helpful to provide the Board with an update on which programs/funding amounts will be transferred to OWS. Mr. Lavoie agreed and will discuss further with Dr. Kelli Vallieres.

**Meeting Adjournment**

Paul Lavoie requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Rocheleau moved the motion and Colin Cooper seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Lavoie closed the meeting at 2:32 PM.