**Technology Talent Advisory Committee Meeting**

***Meeting Notes***

**Department of Economic and Community Development**

September 14, 2022

3:00 – 4:00 PM

**Microsoft TEAMS Meeting**

**Attendance**

* Advisory Committee Members Present: Alexandra Daum, Kelli Vallieres, Matt Mervis, Dan Viens, Sanguthevar Rajasekaran, Lisa Jacobi, Karen Wosczyna-Birch, and Jennifer Widness
* Quorum: Yes
* Absent: None
* Presenters: Katie Singer (New England Board of Higher Education); Frank Avery (Business-Higher Education Forum); Kim Staley (Capital Workforce Partners); Kelli Vallieres (Office of Workforce Strategy)
* Guests: Jonathan Richter (Office of the Governor); Robert Hutchinson (Social Venture Partners); Billy Huang (Office of Workforce Strategy); Madison Myers (Business-Higher Education Forum)
* DECD Staff: Carmen Molina-Rios, Beth Trenchard

**Welcome**

Alexandra Daum opened the meeting at 3:04 PM.

**CT Higher Education – Tech Talent Accelerator**

Representatives from the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) and the Business-Higher Education Forum (BHEF) provided an update on the CT Higher Education – Tech Talent Accelerator initiative. Tech Talent Accelerator is an industry-driven joint initiative by the NEBHE and BHEF. The partnership is anchored in a vetted, evidence-based methodology that:

Convenes business and extracts key skills and hiring inputs using labor market information and Regional Sector Partnerships (RSPs); funds proposed solutions from higher education that maximize higher education's desire to meet business needs and the opportunity to retain tech talent in Connecticut; and accelerates student success by leveraging industry-recognized credentials and existing Connecticut workforce investments to maximize pathways to tech jobs.

Goals of the program include:

400+ initial learners to be credentialed in emerging skills fields;

Five emerging tech skills areas to be embedded into colleges;

Cybersecurity, digital analytics, cross-cutting digital skills, virtual modeling, and full stack development; and

15 initial industry champions to lead and recruit additional employer partners.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) process was undertaken and grants were awarded in June to six independent institutions and the CSCU System.

Next steps include:

Employer Kick-Off & Product Owners: Host kick-off with each employer champion to ensure each business has a clear use case, executive champion, talent management, and relevant subject matter expert.

Shared Needs: Working with employer champions, recruit additional businesses with shared needs to participate in each partnership under the leadership of a corporate champion, such as supply chain partners.

Profile Skills: Validate regionally and industry-tailored skills profiles to guide grantees. RSPs can keep skills profiles to inform other regional higher education/training partners.

High-Impact Practices & Career On-Ramps: Embed and begin process of credential recognition through internal HR systems.

Continuous Updates: Leverage regional tech partnerships (and others) to provide inputs, additional validation, and alignment to establish sustainable, long-term partnership model.

**IT Training Programs**

Capital Workforce Partners provided an update on its IT training programs.

Working with Merit America, outcomes to date:

147 Enrolled in Training

137 Laptops Distributed

117 (80%) Obtained Credential

60 (51%), are currently employed

30 (26%) are employed with Infosys

Working with Year Up and other training providers, outcomes to date:

28 participants enrolled (one cohort)

24 Laptops distributed

26 (93%) persisted and earned the IT Google Cert

21 (81%) are currently employed

5 participants were placed with Infosys

**Good Jobs Challenge and CareerConneCT**

Kelli Vallieres provided an update on the Goods Jobs Challenge and CareerConneCT.

Good Jobs Challenge ($23.9 million in ARPA/EDA Funds) to strengthen RSPs to inform and support regional workforce training needs:

Provide Support to Develop Regional Sector Partnerships (RSPs)

Support RSP Objectives, Goals, and Needs

Focus on In-Demand Occupations and Industries

Develop/Update Curriculum & Training Models

Deliver Regional Sector Based Training

CareerConneCT ($70 million in ARPA Funds) to foster collaboration to deliver statewide workforce training solutions:

Develop Statewide Recruitment & Assessment Portal

Facilitate Collaboration of Organizations on Statewide Programming

Deliver Statewide Sectoral Training to Individuals Most Affected by COVID-19

Focus on In-Demand Occupations and Industries

Deploy State Bonding Dollars on Various Related Initiatives

**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, December 14, 2022, from 3-4 PM.

**Meeting Closed**

Alexandra Daum closed the meeting at 3:58 PM.