**Technology Talent Advisory Committee Meeting**

***Meeting Notes***

**Department of Economic and Community Development**

March 10, 2021

3:00 – 4:00 PM

**Microsoft TEAMS Meeting**

**Attendance**

* Advisory Committee Members Present: Glendowlyn Thames, Jessica Dodge, Sanguthevar Rajasekaran, Matt Mervis, Jeff Wihbey, Lisa Jacobi, Dan Viens, Gary Scharf, Karen Wosczyna-Birch, and Jennifer Widness
* Quorum: Yes
* Absent: Monoswita Saha, Bill Moschella
* Presenters: Kelli Vallieres (Governor’s Workforce Council and Office of Workforce Strategy); Laura Baker (Office of Workforce Strategy); Sean Petersen (Tech Talent South); Kate Errico (Holberton School); Macia Batista and Anna Krieger (General Assembly Space)
* DECD Staff: Carmen Molina-Rios, Beth Trenchard

**Welcome**

Glendowlyn Thames opened the meeting at 3:04 PM with roll call and an overview of the meeting agenda.

**Update on the Governor’s Workforce Council Workforce Strategic Plan**

Kelli Vallieres stated that the various committees of the Governor’s Workforce Council (the Council) continue to make progress across the four categories of: business leadership, career & education, data & accountability, and equity & access. The Council will also be launching an Equity Committee. Kelli emphasized that there are opportunities available to join the subcommittees or participate as an advisor in monthly meetings.

Kelli also highlighted a new bill for the 2021 legislative session to support Workforce Development goals and benefits. Its focus includes codifying the Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS) and securing a funding mechanism for training programs.

The Council and OWS continue to support the Governor’s Initiatives on COVID relief through the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund and SkillUp CT which runs through 6/30/21. CT will also see more funding available for short-term, sector-based training programs. Labor Market Data is being pulled to accurately assess the areas of need by region; including IT, Healthcare, Manufacturing, Green Jobs, Digital Literacy and CDL Licensing.

The next quarterly meeting of the Council will be held on April 15, 2021 from 2:30 to 5:00 and is open to the public.

**Update on Remote-Learning and Workforce Training Initiatives**

Laura Baker provided an update on Metrix Learning and reported that the programs are doing very well. In the Soft Skills area, there have been 25,820 total registrations, including 4,014 new registrations in the first quarter of 2021. In the 180 Skills program, Laura emphasized there are 700+ courses in Career Readiness & Technical upskilling. She has been working with the technical high school’s mechatronics which are getting uploaded and on board. ReadyCT’s Student 5.0 is consistently achieving 100% course completion rates. 5,200 active logins have been provided – with an additional 1,650 enrollments anticipated. Focus is on ramping up the CTECS/CSCU System and the MDET and Welding programs next.

**Update on Tech Talent Fund Programs: Tech Talent South**

Sean Petersen reported that programs run to date are focusing predominantly on Full Stack Development – imparting skills of front end and back end data science and analytics programs. Enrolled in Full Stack are 93 and 30 in Data Science and Analytics programs which are aligned with their cohorts.

Enrollment in the programs is 62% toward the goal of 200 students enrolled by end of year 2; and 50%+ are women/minorities/veterans. There has been a lot of interest from those working from home looking to take advantage of learning opportunities. There were nearly 500 candidates screened in 2020 alone. 50% toward goal of graduating 180 students by end of year 2. 83% of reporting candidates are currently employed.

Sean spotlighted a student whose undergraduate degree was in economics. She enrolled in the Full Stack Development program and is now employed as a Software Engineer at GalaxE.Solutions.

**Districts Arts & Education (Holberton School New Haven)**

Kate Errico provided an update and overview of the performance data to date. Holberton has received 1,623 applications to date. The program has provided 4,300 hours of Full Stack training with total enrollment of 90 students. The program had its first graduating cohort for the full two-year period. All graduates have landed significant roles and employment with average salaries in the low $70,000 which is fulfilling the promise of the program to fast track into a meaningful career. A new, one-year Full Stack program will be launched in June with mini-specialization offered for the final 3 months in Front-end, Back-end or DevOps.

**General Assembly Space**

Anna Krieger provided a program update. Three cohorts were run for Software Engineering and one cohort for Data Science. 73 students in total were enrolled with 65 students graduating. 89% of the graduates from the first and 100% from the second and third cohorts have been placed within the first six months of graduation. 80% from the fourth cohort have been placed six months after graduation. The diversity metrics were met and graduates have successfully found jobs at 16 CT-based employers

**A discussion ensued amongst committee members.**

**Financial Portfolio Review**

Glendowlyn Thames provided an overview of the current Tech Talent fund and highlighted the authorization and balance remaining in the fund.

**Meeting Closed**

Glendowlyn Thames closed the meeting at 3:54 PM.