**Technology Talent Advisory Committee Meeting**

***Meeting Notes***

**Department of Economic and Community Development**

June 9, 2021

3:05 – 4:00 PM

**Microsoft TEAMS Meeting**

**Attendance**

* Advisory Committee Members Present: Glendowlyn Thames, Monoswita Saha, Jessica Dodge, Sanguthevar Rajasekaran, Jeff Wihbey, Lisa Jacobi, Gary Scharf, Karen Wosczyna-Birch, and Jennifer Widness
* Quorum: Yes
* Absent: Bill Moschella, Dan Viens, Matt Mervis
* Presenters: Frank Avery (Business-Higher Education Forum); Martin Guay (Stanley Black & Decker); Niall Dammando (Office of Workforce Strategy); Laura Baker (Office of Workforce Strategy); Sean Petersen (Tech Talent South); Al Bhatt (Holberton School)
* Guests: Brian Fitzgerald (Business-Higher Education Forum); Stephanie Blochinger (Business-Higher Education Forum); Kelli Vallieres (Governor’s Workforce Council and Office of Workforce Strategy); Beth Koback (Tech Talent South); Allie Hanson (Tech Talent South)
* DECD Staff: Carmen Molina-Rios, Beth Trenchard

**Welcome**

Glendowlyn Thames opened the meeting at 3:05 PM.

**The Business-Higher Education Forum: Overview of CT Project**

Frank Avery, Director of Regional Initiatives, provided an overview of the Business-Higher Education Forum’s (the Forum) project in Connecticut. The Digital Talent Ecosystem Initiative focuses on the opportunity to rapidly enhance cross-sector regional workforce competitiveness through industry-aligned digital skills that complement the state’s regional sector strategy. The goal is to establish five new or enhanced industry-college partnerships and develop stackable digital micro-credentials aligned with regional industry sector needs. As one of the Forum’s industry partners, Martin Guay stated the importance of the Initiative in promoting growth, economic development, inclusion and diversity in the workforce. The work is addressing the importance of digital literacy for everyone and digital fluency for others.

A discussion ensued amongst Committee members.

**Governor’s Workforce Council & Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS): Workforce Strategic Plan for IT**

Niall Dammando stated that hiring and employer demand is happening now. OWS has been contacted by national training providers from all over the country. They are currently working on developing a broader training ecosystem in the state. The hope is to bring training providers together to create a state-wide system and focus on skills-based training, as well.

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

Laura Baker provided an update on Metrix Learning and reported that the program, focused in the Soft Skills area, is doing very well. There have been 27,173 total registrations and 14,167 licenses granted. A total of 46,756 courses have been completed – with an average of 3.3 courses completed per user. Laura noted that the workforce boards are eager to continue funding this program as a supplement and enhancement to their training needs and service roster.

In the 180 Skills program, Laura emphasized there are 700+ courses in Career Readiness & Technical upskilling and courses are being added around DEI and sexual harassment. There have been 6,500 total registrations and 2,200 licenses granted – with 35 companies signed on.

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

Sean Petersen reported that programs run by Tech Talent South focused predominantly on Full Stack Development. The total number of students enrolled in Full Stack was 93 and 30 in Data Science and Analytics. A total of 94 students graduated with 71 currently employed. Sean spotlighted a student whose undergraduate degree from Central CT State University was in dramatic arts. He enrolled in the Full Stack Development program and is now employed as a Data Analyst/Project Coordinator at Pratt & Whitney.

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

Al Bhatt provided an update and overview of the performance data to date. Holberton has received 1,733 applications to date. The program has provided 4,300 hours of Full Stack training with total enrollment of 87 students across 7 cohorts. A summer program is being offered for local high school students in Web Development, Content Creation, and Design Thinking. 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.

**Financial Portfolio Update**

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

**Strategic Discussion: Tech Talent Fund**

Glendowlyn Thames reviewed the legislative intent and specific requirements of the Tech Talent Fund. Future funding investments will align with the legislative intent and the state’s workforce strategy.

**Meeting Closed**

Glendowlyn Thames closed the meeting at 4:00 PM.