



# GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE COUNCIL

Governor's Workforce Council – Industry Leadership Committee

April 17, 2025

Minutes are unapproved

**Council Members Present:**

Marty Guay, Maggie Hulce, Ed Hawthorne, Nitin Kumar, Kathleen Silard

**Council Members Absent:**

Sen. Herron Gaston, Molly Kellogg, Comm. Dan O'Keefe

A link to the recording can be found [here](#).

**OWS Liaison Tracy Ariel calls the meeting to order at 12:04pm.** OWS Director of Workforce and Business Engagement, Tracy Ariel welcomes everyone to the first GWC Industry Leadership meeting. Conducts roll call. Committee members introduce themselves.

**Kelli Vallieres, OWS Chief Workforce Officer, State of CT, welcomes everyone and outlines the meeting's purpose at 12:07pm.**

- Discussed launch of updated Strategic Plan.
- Highlights upcoming Workforce Summit April 22, 2025 at the Aquaturf.
- Mentions the \$30 million authorization for bond funding for OWS.

**Committee Co-Chair Mary Guay introduces discussion on committee goals, issues, and strategies.** Committee strategizes ways to engage business leaders and recruit them to regional sector partnerships, data and skills analysis, barriers to employment and access, and the role of data analytics.

- Committee strategized first outreach efforts to business leaders. Proposes drafting a message for business leaders review and feedback, including a marketing message at opening, confirming promise of follow up communications, and informing them of the value of their participation. Committee emphasized the need to clearly communicate the benefits of participation and the importance of making the time investment valuable for business leaders.
- Discussed utilizing potential data sources like Lightcast and Indeed to identify in demand skills. Emphasized the importance of aligning training programs with current job market needs and the role of industry-recognized credentials. Set up a separate committee to discuss presenting data to employers to help them understand the workforce landscape and identify areas for improvement.
- Highlighted access barriers such as broadband, PTO, and transportation which hinder people from participating in training programs and the importance of RSP's committees addressing barriers to hinder and maintaining employers. The Committee also discussed the importance of addressing both demand and supply gaps in the workforce.

**Next Steps and Action Items.** Committee discusses next steps and action items including drafting outreach message for business engagement, and formalizing workplan.

**Meeting concludes at 12:59pm.**