



**Workforce Committee on Innovation Meeting
Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.**

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Phone Conference ID: 451 088 927#

AGENDA

- I. Welcome and Opening RemarksDr. Windsor Sherrill, Committee Chair
- II. Approval of Minutes from October 19, 2023* Dr. Sherrill
- III. Career Exploration and Virtual Reality Mr. Adam Paige
- IV. Rural Initiative Plan Mr. Charles Myers
- V. Other Business/Adjourn..... Dr. Sherrill

*Denotes voting item

**Governor’s State Workforce Development Board
October 19, 2023, Committee on Workforce Innovation Meeting Minutes**

Members Present:

Dr. Windsor Sherrill*, Chair
Ms. Valerie S. Richardson*
Ms. Susan H. Cohen
Col. Craig Currey
Dr. Tim Hardee
Mr. Jay Holloway
Ms. Felicia Johnson
Ms. Elaine Morgan
Mr. Tyler Servant
Sen. Ross Turner

Members Absent:

N/A

Welcome and Opening RemarksDr. Windsor Sherrill, Committee Chair

Dr. Windsor Sherrill, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes from August 17, 2023*Dr. Sherrill

Mr. Jay Holloway motioned to approve the August 17, 2023, meeting minutes. Ms. Elaine Morgan seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Shared Case Management System Mr. Scott Ferguson

Mr. Scott Ferguson, Deputy Assistant Executive Director of Workforce Development, provided a status update on the PY'23 Shared Case Management System project. Gartner Consulting was awarded the project and will conduct a feasibility study to identify options for DEW and its partners to more effectively integrate data to support service delivery.

The Shared Case Management System project will be executed over three phases:

- Phase 1: Current State Assessment: Gartner will assess the current system and meet with internal stakeholder groups to determine necessary capabilities. Additional meetings will be held with the Department of Social Services, South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation, the South Carolina Commission for the Blind, the Department of Education's Office of Adult Education, and the South Carolina Occupation Information System.
- Phase 2: Identify Opportunities and Best Practices: a scan of the market for case management and labor exchange solutions will be conducted.
- Phase 3: Develop Strategy and Roadmap: Gartner Consulting will prioritize risks and create future state roadmaps and implementation plans.

Mr. Ferguson explained that the current procurement was for the engagement of required partners only, advising that the plan is for any future system have the capability to interface with state and non-state agency partners.

Governor’s State Workforce Development Board
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Unified State Plan Update **Mr. Charles Appleby**
Mr. Charles Appleby, Senior Advisor, Coordinating Council for Workforce Development, provided an update on the Statewide Education and Workforce Development Act (Act 67) activities, focusing on the Unified State Plan, a comprehensive education and workforce development plan.

One activity required under Act 67 was implementing the Standard Occupational Code (SOC) reporting requirement. SOCs are assigned to a job duty and not just an industry. Mr. Appleby explained that beginning in March 2024, all businesses will be required to submit a SOC for each employee. The information reported will help improve business recruitment, and the workforce system will increase its ability to ensure its investment in more effective education and workforce training.

The Unified State Plan (USP) is a systematic approach to statewide education and workforce development to streamline and unify the efforts of entities involved throughout the state. Mr. Appleby noted that the USP does not replace nor negate the required program and agency-required plans; it is an opportunity to address and collaborate around the state’s workforce and educational needs. The USP’s vision, “Achieve and sustain South Carolina’s workforce potential,” has been adopted as the vision for the 2024 Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Combined State Plan aligning with the Unified State Plan. Both plans are working on strategies to address the workforce and education in three topic areas: awareness, skills, and obstacles.

Other Business/Adjourn **Dr. Sherrill**
Dr. Sherrill reminded members that the next SWDB meeting will be December 12, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. Members were encouraged to attend the Executive Committee meeting on November 14, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. to hear the results of the SC Secret Shopper Initiative presented by the EvalGroup.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

CAREER EXPLORATION AND VIRTUAL REALITY: WORKFORCE AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- History of the SWDB Priority: Virtual Reality for Career Exploration
- EmpowerU: Futures Unlocked Initiative Overview
- Description and Goals for the EmpowerU Initiative
- Virtual Reality Technology Overview
- Next Steps

HISTORY OF THE SWDB PRIORITY: VIRTUAL REALITY FOR CAREER EXPLORATION

November 2022

Staff completed the preliminary research and deployed a survey during the first quarter of PY'22 to learn how virtual reality is being used within education and workforce development. The survey and study results are available in the Member Portal.

July 2023

Preliminary conversations with DEW and Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)

August 2023

Follow up conversations with DEW and DJJ

September 2023

Meeting with DEW, DJJ and Upstate Workforce Board

October 2023

Upstate Workforce Board and DJJ submitted a scope of work to DEW for review

January 2024

EmpowerU: Futures Unlocked Initiative commenced

EMPOWERU: FUTURES UNLOCKED INITIATIVE OVERVIEW JANUARY – DECEMBER 2024

Overview: The initiative will provide a structured career exploration program for DJJ participants and use virtual reality technology to support career exploration. It will also include classroom instruction on a variety of topics. We anticipate that the model will evolve to accommodate the unique needs of DJJ and the population served.

- Create action plans for each participant (detail next steps upon release)
- Make referrals to SC Works locations in the county in which they plan to return (to include a specific name of staff)
- Discussion and overview of in demand occupations in South Carolina
- Discussion of career pathways
- Career exploration exercises (VR headset)
- Provide participants with a backpack, from Power Notes, that includes Career focused information to help them as they transition

DESCRIPTION AND GOALS FOR THE EMPOWERU INITIATIVE

- Participants will complete an 8 week training program

- Initiative is structured to run four times this calendar year (quarterly cohorts)

- Participants will also receive how to guides regarding:



- Resumes



- Interview tips



- Creating your elevator speech



- Dress for success



- Employer Tax Credit information



- Employer Federal Bonding Information job opening resources

VIRTUAL REALITY TECHNOLOGY OVERVIEW

Programs currently offered:



Automotive



Hospitality &
Tourism



Manufacturing



Public Safety



Skilled Trades



Warehousing &
Storage

VIRTUAL REALITY TRAINING OVERVIEW: SKILLED TRADES MODULES

Manufacturing and Construction: The Skilled Trades

Module: Plant Safety

Module: Construction Safety

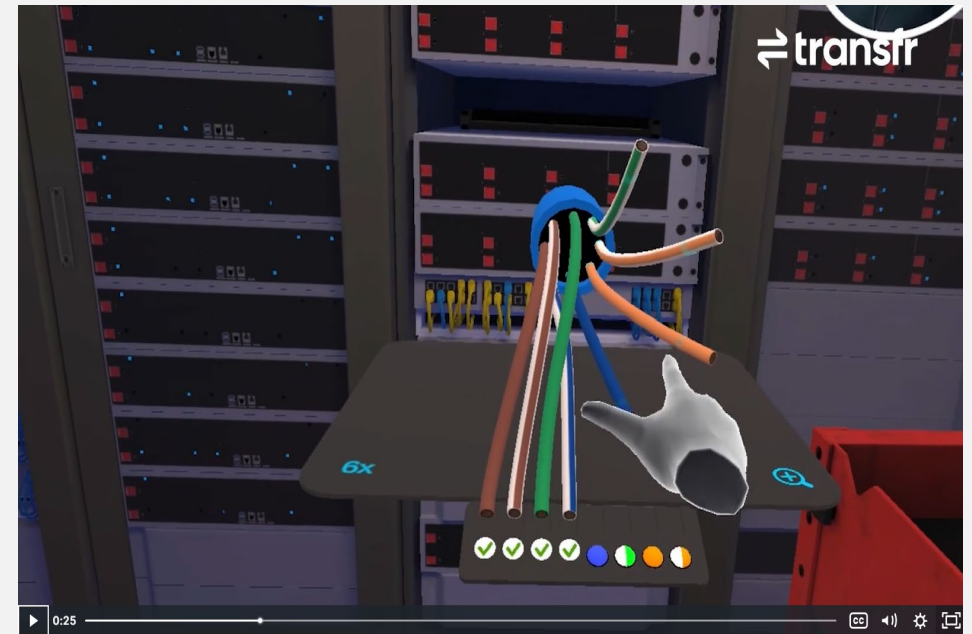
Module: Precision Measurement

Module: Blueprint Reading

Module: Mechatronics

Module: Paint Robot Troubleshooting

Module: Electrical Fundamentals



VIRTUAL REALITY TRAINING OVERVIEW: SKILLED TRADES MODULES

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Module: Plant Safety

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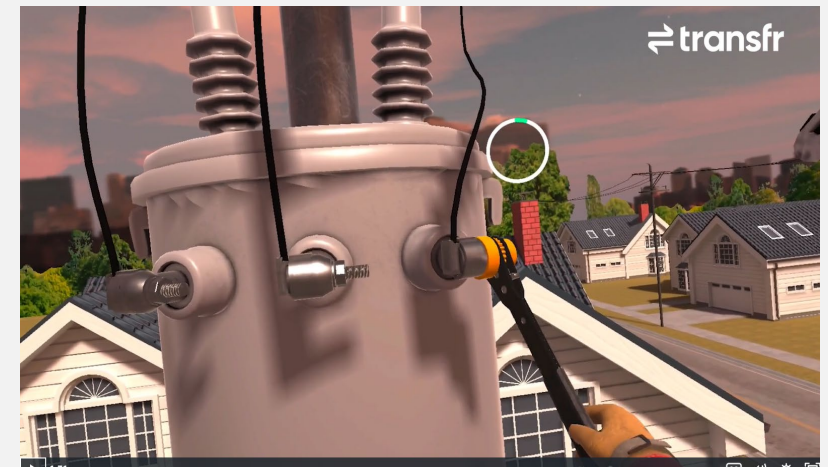
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VIRTUAL REALITY TRAINING OVERVIEW

SKILLED TRADES MODULES

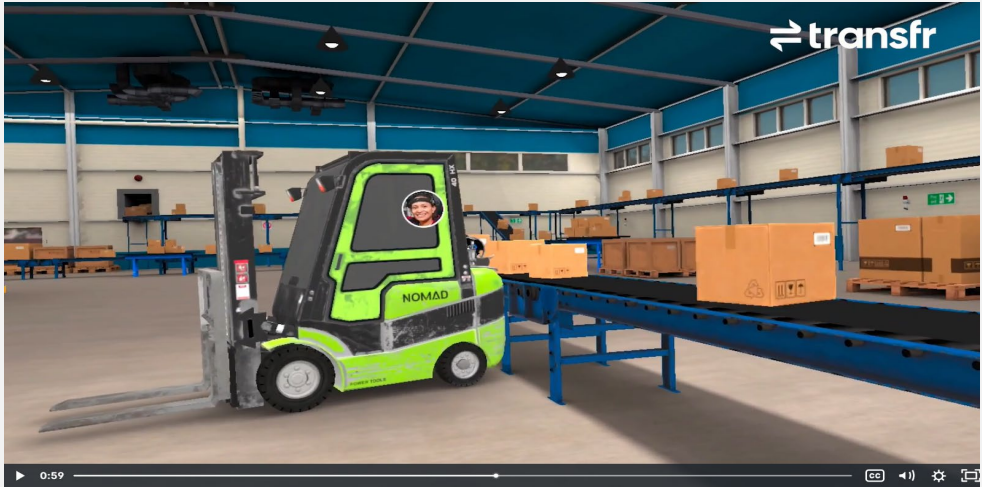


VIRTUAL REALITY TRAINING OVERVIEW

SKILLED TRADES MODULES



VIRTUAL REALITY TRAINING OVERVIEW WAREHOUSING & STORAGE



NEXT STEPS: OUTCOMES TO BE MEASURED

- Participants completion rate (completion is defined as: attending 80% of scheduled class time)
- Participants completing a resume
- Participants contributing to the development of an individualized action plan for post release (This will include SC Works contact information for the county in which they will return)
- Participants declaring a career path for post release (education, military and or work)*

QUESTIONS?



SCDEW RURAL INITIATIVES REVIEW

Rural Initiatives Team

- ▶ Utilizing a Regional Approach, the Rural Initiatives Team will foster collaboration with rural stakeholders:
- ▶ Through the implementation of Regional Collaboration Meetings, "SC@Work: Connections", Small Business Outreach, and the promotion of Virtual Services
- ▶ Fifteen (15) Additional Staff with a focus on Tier 3 and Tier 4 counties
- ▶ Second Mobile Unit



Rural Initiatives Manager

- ▶ Project Coordinators will serve as Points-of-Contact in the four Greater Workforce Regions
- ▶ By Coordinating Hiring and Service Events within their regions, the Project Coordinators will ensure our rural communities are consistently served.
- ▶ Additionally, they will ensure small businesses within their region are served and registered within the SC Works System.



Phases

4

SC@Work: Road Trips

Collaboration between the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW), SC Works, partner agencies, and state employers which will occur in the spring and fall of 2023

SC@Work: Connections

Rural events targeting jobseekers with barriers to employment, such as transportation, which prevent them from accessing regional workforce development services

Rural Partnerships

Public-Private partnerships of business leaders from rural areas within the same region, who work together with partners from education, workforce development and economic development to tackle the common workforce and other competitiveness needs specific to rural areas

Expansion

Expansion of services through the acquisition of second mobile unit



896 Job Seekers

**713 Follow-Up Interviews
Or Onsite Hiring**

**503 Employers and
Community Partners**

27 Locations in 2023

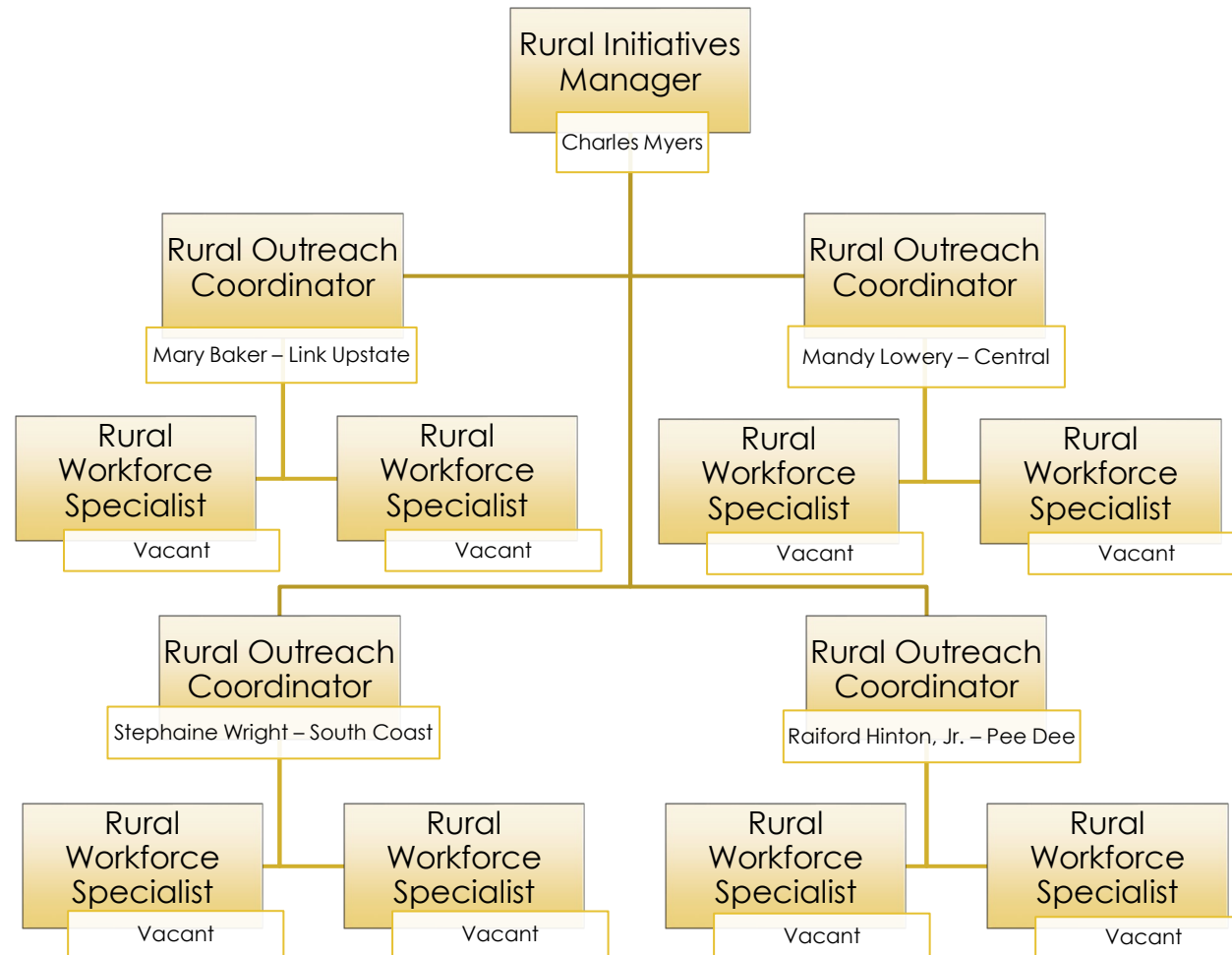
**17 Rural Counties
Served**



**Events Every Two Months
May through November**



Structure



Thank You

CHARLES MYERS

