

**Governor’s State Workforce Development Board  
May 26, 2022 Workforce Committee on Innovation Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Mr. Jay Holloway  
Col. Craig Currey  
Ms. Felicia Johnson

**Members Excused:**

Mr. Archie Maddox

**Welcome and Opening Remarks .....Mr. Jay Holloway, Committee Chair**

Mr. Jay Holloway, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes from February 24, 2022\* .....Mr. Holloway**

Mr. Craig Currey motioned to approve the February 24, 2022, meeting minutes. Ms. Felicia Johnson seconded the motion, and the Committee unanimously approved the minutes.

**Review of PY’21 Committee Priorities .....Mr. Holloway**

Mr. Holloway shared a progress report on the Committee’s priorities for the Program Year (PY) 2021.

- The priority to distribute publications relevant to talent development and strategic planning was completed. SWDB members were added to the Trends publication distribution list. Other publications relevant to the board or committee priorities will be shared as identified.
- The Darla Moore School of Business was commissioned to conduct an economic and workforce analysis emphasizing rural areas of the state. The analysis will be available in PY 2022's first quarter.
- Create LMI training for board members: Staff is identifying resources for the development of training.

**Virtual Reality in Workforce Development .....Ms. Jackie Taylor**

Ms. Taylor presented the growing use of Virtual Reality (VR) in workforce development in SC and across the nation as a viable addition to career exploration and training needs. VR utilizes technological advancements to simulate a 3D image or environment that allows the user to interact “seemingly real or physical way” utilizing special head equipment and gloves.

In alignment with the board priorities, including addressing rural needs, and strategic outreach to employers, VR can be experienced through the Be Pro Be Proud 18-wheeler mobile workshop. The Be Pro Be Proud workshop has eight immersive simulators used to expose high school students across SC to the skilled trade professions as a means of career exposure. Virtual Reality can be used as a “hands-on” method of learning while addressing barriers such as access while offering cost efficiencies through exposure to occupations. Critical employer training can be supported through virtual reality. Training in a virtual environment vs. using raw materials is more cost-effective and reduces waste.

Taylor provided examples of how other states are using Virtual Reality. States such as Alabama and Arkansas have been using virtual reality to familiarize potential workers with entry-level skills. In Oregon, local workforce development areas have used virtual reality training for healthcare workers on the proper use of PPE related to COVID-19.

\*Denotes voting item

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A plan to complete a statewide scan to see how VR is used in workforce development in the following program year is being developed. The scan will show how it is implemented and the capacity of virtual reality in the workforce.

The committee discussed how the Be Pro Be Proud (BPBP) mobile workshop is currently used and how it can be expanded from providing interests in career pathways to actual certification. During the first quarter meeting of PY’22, a representative from Greenville will present how Greenville/Upstate uses VR training.

**Workforce Development Month.....Ms. Jackie Taylor**

Ms. Taylor shared that SC would join in the celebration of National Workforce Development Month in September. There will be numerous opportunities to engage job seekers and, employers, the general public through job fairs and workshops, and local areas will nominate workforce development professionals for recognition.

**Other Business/Adjourn.....Mr. Holloway**

The Committee did not discuss any other business.

Remarks:

Director Ellzey said the economy is still doing great. UI claims are decreasing, while the Participation Rate (PR) is increasing.

Ms. Michelle Paczynski expressed that a strong economy means SC will receive less federal funding for workforce development. The LWDA areas will receive approximately \$3M less federal dollars next year. While simultaneously, the SWDB has approved approximately \$10M in discretionary funds over the last two years. The correlation between the state board and local boards is very important. It adds value when we see initial investments into promising practices and focus on innovation, positioning the workforce to be nimbler. The conversation

Mr. Holloway reminded Committee members of the SWDB meeting on June 28, 2022, at 11:00 am, followed by lunch and a Strategic Planning Session. Everyone is encouraged to attend in person. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.

\*Denotes voting item