

**Governor’s State Workforce Development Board
November 9, 2022 Committee on Workforce Innovation Meeting Minutes**

Members Present:

Mr. Jay Holloway*, Chair
Ms. Felicia Johnson
Ms. Susan H. Cohen

Members Absent:

Mr. Craig Currey
Ms. Valerie S. Richardson*
Senator Ross Turner
Dr. Windsor W. Sherrill

Welcome and Opening RemarksMr. Jay Holloway, Committee Chair

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

Mr. Holloway welcomed the new Committee members: Susan Cohen, Senator Ross Turner, Dr. Windsor Sherrill, and Val Richardson.

Approval of Minutes from May 26, 2022 and August 24, 2022*Mr. Holloway

The Committee unanimously approved the May 26, 2022 and August 24, 2022 meeting minutes.

Virtual Reality Survey Results Ms. Tamara Lewis

Ms. Tamara Lewis, DEW's Workforce Development Intern, presented the findings of her research on virtual reality (VR) usage in workforce development and the results of a statewide Virtual Reality Survey.

Ms. Lewis examined different types of virtual reality (VR) including desktop, augmented, and immersive. She gave instances of how businesses use these types of VR to train new and existing staff. Middle and high school students in South Carolina utilize virtual reality simulations in the Be Pro Be Proud mobile trailer to explore trade careers including truck driving, welding, and carpentry. The Upstate LWDA's initiative, Operation Educate, uses VR to help inmates at the Spartanburg County Detention Center learn about and prepare for careers in the manufacturing industry.

The Virtual Reality Survey was distributed to statewide public partners in education and workforce development to learn more about their interest and usage of virtual reality. Seventy-three percent of the survey respondents are currently not using virtual reality in their organizations; however, 10% have used it in the past. The survey responses demonstrated that there is an interest in virtual reality implementation. The primary reasons for not utilizing VR are budget restraints, accessibility concerns, and limited knowledge of VR.

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

Mr. Holloway asked members to reach out to staff via SWDB@dew.sc.gov if they need help accessing the Board portal.

*Denotes voting item

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He reminded everyone that the next full board meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. and will be virtual.

Mr. Dan Ellzey advised that while the state's economy is still strong, with 66,000 more jobs available than pre-pandemic, the unemployment rate has increased slightly, as the number of plant closures and employer-filed claims have increased.

Mr. Ellzey updated the committee on efforts to increase the state's labor force participation rate. The Labor Force Participation (LFP) Taskforce survey and the initial research report are completed. The Laurens Direct Connect Project is active and research on how to engage the sideliners is being conducted.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.