

SPECIAL Minutes of the Workforce Development Council

Wednesday, October 26, 2022

7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

MSI Summit, Prairie Rose Meeting Room 101

Bismarck Event Center, Bismarck, ND

Members present: Governor Burgum, Dave Farnsworth, Katie Ralston Howe, Arnie Strebe, Pat Bertagnolli, Representative Cindy Schreiber-Beck, Damian Schlinger, Landis Larson, Lyn James, Chancellor Mark Hagerott, Perry Lubbers, Senator Randy Burckhard, Wayde Sick, Tony Grindberg, Howard Klug, Kellie Carlson, Dusty Jensen, Stan Schauer, Jan Kamphuis.

Guests present: Legislators, Jace Beehler, Williston State College President Bernell Hirning, Brian Ritter, Pat Mineer, Jim Murphy.

Staff present: Phil Davis, Ruth Lacher, Janna Pastir, Sherri Frieze.

WELCOME

Dave Farnsworth, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. welcoming members and guests to the Special Meeting of the WDC, held during the Main Street Initiative Summit at the Bismarck Event Center.

OPENING REMARKS

Governor Burgum welcomed legislators, guests, and council members to the Main Street Summit and to the Special meeting of the Workforce Development Council.

OVERVIEW OF WDC RECOMMENDATIONS

Katie Ralston Howe, Workforce Director, gave a detailed overview of the council recommendations for this legislative session to help address workforce challenges. The plan included over \$50 million in proposals focused on five key concepts; career exploration and preparation; addressing the technical skills gap, recruitment and retention; removing barriers to employment; and occupational licensure reform.

Proposals include:

- Dedicating \$20 million to a competitive Regional Workforce Impact Grant program for local governments; economic development groups, chambers, regional councils, and other workforce entities working to address regional labor demands.
- Providing nearly \$25 million for a strategic marketing and recruitment campaign which will include support for expanding the Find the Good Life talent attraction initiative and Job Service North Dakota virtual job fairs.
- Expanding the state's automation tax credit with a \$5 million Automation Enhancement Workforce Training Grant to support upskilling and advanced training for employers utilizing automation technologies to ease workforce challenges.
- Adding \$2 million to the Technical Skills Training Grant, which since its inception in 2020, has supported the launch or expansion of nearly 30 training programs in health care, information technology, transportation, welding, and more.
- Creating a job placement pilot program with nearly \$750, 000 to ensure that incarcerated individuals released from North Dakota's correctional facilities are trained and connected to positions where they can succeed.
- Continue working on occupational licensure reform to identify ways to expedite the process for professional licensure in North Dakota.

The meeting was closed at 8:45 a.m.