

Connecticut State Apprenticeship Council

Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2016 at the

Connecticut Department of Labor

200 Folly Brook Boulevard

Wethersfield, CT

Conference Rooms A & B at 1:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Comr. Jackson introduced new Council member Dr. Kelli Vallieres. She is the President and CEO of Sound Manufacturing (a precision sheet metal fabrication) company in Old Saybrook. She is also the President of the Eastern Advanced Manufacturing Alliance (EAMA). EAMA sponsors a variety of initiatives that promote manufacturing as a lucrative career option. EAMA works with Quinebaug Valley Community College (QVCC) and Three Rivers Community College (TRCC) to review existing and proposed course content and equipment needs to ensure that the colleges' credit and non-credit programs continually address the evolving needs of manufacturing employers and produce highly skilled workers ready to enter the manufacturing workforce. Commissioner Jackson welcomed Dr. Vallieres to the Council.

The meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m.

Members in Attendance

Chair, Commissioner Scott D. Jackson, Laurence Vaillieres, Martin Alvarenga, Melvin E. Olsson, Richard A. DuPont, Dr. Kelli Vallieres

Members Not in Attendance

Dr. Nivea L. Torres, Jeffrey Merrow, Gregory Raucci, Robert Berkmoes, Frank DaCato

Others Present

Deputy Commissioner Kurt Westby, Program Manager Todd Berch, Charles McNeil, Paul Femia, Linda Ladas Bridget Kemmling, Pat Ciarleglio, Don Keener, Michael Komaromi, Paul Costello, Julia Iassongna, Colleen Finnegan, Kimberly Glassman, Joe Caparco, Gail Kinney, Martha Fletcher, John Dadonna, Mark Mastropasqua, Samantha Berry, Cheryl, Dudus, Mimi Douet, Lina Flores, Chelsea Corliss, Dawn Kolb, Whitney Edwards, Elizabeth Strader, Velma Williams

Recorder

P. DePhillips

I. Call to Order

II. Roll call of Committee Members: Chairman – Comr. Scott D. Jackson

III. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- There was a motion to accept the minutes from the May 19, 2016 meeting. Seconded and approved. There was not a quorum at the last meeting on September 15, 2016.

IV. Correspondence

- None.

V. Apprenticeship Update: Program Manager Todd Berch stated that there are currently 1,068 active Apprenticeship Sponsors and 5,793 apprentices are enrolled in the program.

VII. Old Business: None.

VIII. New Business:

- Commissioner Jackson announced that it was National Apprenticeship week. He informed everyone that some women who are currently participating in the apprenticeship program and some graduates of the program would be speaking today about their experiences in the work place.
- Commissioner Jackson has met with Scott Esdaile, the President of CT NAACP and with DECD to discuss Diversity in the workforce and in Apprenticeship. They discussed Second Chance initiatives within the trades and how to gain enhanced partnerships. He noted that this is an on-going conversation and that the Connecticut Department of Labor has had a great opportunity to highlight women as an underserved population in apprenticeship.
- Commissioner Jackson also spoke about visiting a manufacturing facility in Southington with the Lt. Governor and some DECD staff. The Lt. Governor had asked how workers move a 1,000 pound sheet of metal and the answer was things are moved today by water based magnetic systems. Techniques developed in the last century have eliminated the physical problems that used to prevent women from working within the industry. The Commissioner thanked Todd, Deputy Commissioner Westby and Mel Olsson for implementing a new Apprenticeship program at Electric Boat.
- Todd Berch – To celebrate National Apprenticeship Week and National Women in Apprenticeship Day, several women apprentices and Apprenticeship graduates discussed their experiences as apprentices and as journeypeople working in the trades for different companies. The speakers included women who apprenticed with the Electric Boat Corporation, graduated and are now working permanently for the corporation, as well as apprentices from the Operating engineers Local 478, the International Brotherhood of Electrical workers (IBEW) Local 90 and some first year apprentices in the Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union #40 who are apprenticing at Yankee Sheet Metal. Todd read the summary of a proclamation signed by Governor Malloy recognizing National Apprenticeship Week and also mentioning National

Apprenticeship Day for Women. Commissioner Jackson thanked everyone for sharing the progression of their careers in the trades with the public.

IX. Public Comment- David Roche, President of the Connecticut Building Trades thanked the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner Westby and Todd for an initiative to increase the number of women in apprenticeship and for their partnership with the CT Department of Labor Apprenticeship program. He noted that for Sheet metal and trades/businesses to survive they need to attract more women in these professions. Commissioner Jackson stated that Mr. Roche's leadership was critical to achieving this goal.

X. Good and Welfare: Todd Berch informed everyone that Sound Manufacturing Company, under Dr. Vallieres direction, have become an Apprenticeship sponsor and will be hiring three new apprentices. Chairman Jackson said the Council was honored by Dr. Vallieres presence on the Council.

XI. Date of Next Meeting – The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, February 16, 2017.