

## FINGER LAKES WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 8:30-10:00am

Via Zoom

### ATTENDANCE:

Members: Kathy Baker, Lina Brennan, Zachary Brooks, Sara Bruzee, Michael Davis, Jennifer DeVault, Sarah Eighmey, Tom Facer, Michelle Jungermann, Richard House, Danielle Maloy, Dr. Robert Nye, Lori Parish, Joseph Pellerite, Rick Plympton, Dr. Vicky Ramos, Christi Rollo, Mitch Rowe, Michael Rusinko, Eileen Tiberio, Jona Wright  
Guests: Jim Malatras, Andrea McGraw, Karen Springmeier, John Vrabel, Mike Whirtley  
Staff: Jordan Bates, Lynn Freid, Amanda Lesterhuis, Jen May, Debbie Sowards, Michael Woloson  
Absent: Pete Bekisz, Bob Doeblin, Michael Kauffman, Michael Manikowski, John Mueller, Bonnie Percy, Karen Tyler

At 8:30 a.m., Mr. Plympton called the meeting to order. Roll call followed. Ms. Bruzee was welcomed to her first meeting.

### ECONOMIC NEWS AND UPDATES:

#### Economic Issues/Trends/Concerns:

Healthcare – Ms. DeVault shared that Thompson Health conducted a moment of silence on March 16<sup>th</sup> to mark a year into the COVID-19 pandemic and the lives lost around the world. Thompson Health has administered 11,000 vaccines and 80% of their staff has been vaccinated. Ms. DeVault also stated that now that Rochester Regional Health is moving to a \$15 minimum wage, Thompson Health must ascertain if the financial resources exist to do the same. Ms. Brennan shared that Finger Lakes Health will also need to make the same decision, in the midst of the massive financial burden that the pandemic has caused the hospital system. Both Ms. DeVault and Ms. Brennan stated that the hospital systems have never had so many job openings before and they are concerned because candidates can make more with unemployment benefits.

Agriculture – Ms. Eighmey stated that vineyards have been begun pruning crops and have been given approval to go to 75% capacity beginning in April. Anthony Road might not make the transition to 75%, as it is up to individual wineries and what they think they can handle. Most wineries are seeing an uptick in visitors as people are coming out to enjoy the warmer weather after being indoors for so long. Mr. Facer shared that field crop workers are getting prepared for the season and it has been dry for this time of the year.

Advanced Manufacturing – Mr. Plympton shared that the manufacturing sector has been very busy, with most companies looking to hire. Businesses are already coping with the rise of unemployment benefits and the idea of a \$15 minimum hourly wage does create concern for many.

Education – Dr. Ramos mentioned that WFL-BOCES surveyed the class of 2020 and had 83% of students from both campuses respond, close to 450 students. Of those who responded, 41% are employed in the area in which they graduated; 6% joined the military; 41% are in a post education program, community college or four year college. Last year's survey of the class of 2019 showed that 6% were unemployed and looking for work in their chosen field; the 2020 survey showed that 11% were unemployed and they graduated from program that were affected by COVID: culinary arts, animal sciences and cosmetology. Now that things are beginning to open, Dr. Ramos stated that WFL-BOCES will be keeping tabs on those students. Dr. Nye shared the FLCC is doing well in terms of enrollment for the spring semester and the college is the #3 community college in the state. He also stated that the college will be hosting an outdoor graduation ceremony to give graduates a bit of normalcy. Dr. Nye spoke of his pride in the students involved in the Governor's Cup for wine, and the college received six awards: two silver and four bronze. FLCC is also hoping to partner with Empire Medicinals to expand their bio-tech program.

### New Business/Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes from the January 20, 2021 meeting

Resolution #10-20 Approval of Intensive and Training Providers and Programs

**A motion to approve minutes from the January 20, 2021 was made Ms. Eighmey and by Mr. House. All in favor, motion carried.**

**A motion to approve Resolution 10-20 was made by Dr. Ramos and seconded by Mr. Davis. All in favor, motion carried.**

### COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance & Audit Committee – Ms. Sowards reported that the committee will meet again on March 31<sup>st</sup>. The budget process has begun for the WIB and the county contractors. Additionally, the PY'21 allocations have been received and there was a 7.5% increase from the PY'20 allocations. This board will approve all budgets at the May meeting.

Governance & Membership Committee – Ms. Freid shared that the committee met on March 11<sup>th</sup> and again welcomed Ms. Bruzee, the newest member of the Board. The process is underway to have Erica Wright of Finger Lakes Extrusion (Ontario – Private), Bob Coyne of Rochester Technology and Manufacturing Association (Public) and Randi DiAntonio of NYS Public Employees Federation (Public) appointed to the Board. Ms. Freid also shared that the draft Slate of Officers for PY'21 is in process and the Board By-laws are being revised and will be before this Board in May.

Marketing & Communications – This committee will meet on Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> and is looking for a new Chair.

Performance & Evaluation – Ms. Freid stated that the committee met on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and reviewed the updated Dashboard report, OJT outcomes for the first half of PY'20 and discussed the draft Memorandum of Understanding with required partners. The committee also discussed the possibility of incorporating a Work Try-Out program into the services already offered.

Economic Development Committee – The committee met on March 12<sup>th</sup> and were presented with information regarding a Benefits Calculator program by Mr. Joseph Davis. Following the presentation and a discussion, a taskforce was created to investigate the program further, and members of that taskforce are scheduled to meet on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Youth – Ms. Parish stated that the Optimax flipbook was shared at the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. The flipbook is available on the WIB website at <https://fingerlakesworks.com/finger-lakes-features-creating-your-future-with-optimax-a-virtual-tour/>. The committee also reviewed website analytics and had a discussion with two high school students regarding virtual learning challenges and social media. The committee will meet again on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

FAME – Mr. Plympton noted that FAME Chair Dave Phillips has returned to full time employment at G.W. Lisk and has stepped down from his position. FAME is now seeking a Chair. Additionally, the application period for the \$1,000 scholarship for a FLCC student who is pursuing a career in advanced manufacturing has begun. The period will close at the end of April and a recipient will be chosen. The student will be awarded the scholarship in September. Signing Day for students of the Finger Lakes Youth Apprenticeship Program was held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and was well attended. Also, the Pipeline Committee of FAME has created three subcommittees: Pipeline & Hiring, Training & Hiring, Marketing & Branding. Lastly, Mr. Plympton spoke of the active partnership between Wayne County and Edge Factor. Currently, Wayne County has five businesses participating and about twenty videos posted.

Director's Report – Ms. Freid stated that she has been busy getting acclimated to her new position. Furthermore, the state legislative session is heavily underway and NYATEP has coordinated visits between WIB Directors and legislators. There has been a lot of activity ahead of budget season, with everyone wanting a portion of the stimulus funds.

**Presentation – Jim Malatras, Chancellor, The State University of New York**

Chancellor Malatras, who was introduced by Dr. Nye, joined the group to discuss this critical moment in society, especially in higher education. You can hear his remarks in their entirety at the following web address, <https://www.dropbox.com/s/e6srbx69fbf25dx/FLWIB%20March%2017%2C%202021%20Meeting.mp4?dl=0>.

**Farewell Message from Ms. Springmeier**

Ms. Springmeier graciously thanked the Board for the remarks offered at the January meeting and the retirement gifts. Further remarks from Ms. Springmeier can be found at <https://www.dropbox.com/s/e6srbx69fbf25dx/FLWIB%20March%2017%2C%202021%20Meeting.mp4?dl=0>.

**Next Board Meeting** – Wednesday, May 19, 2021, *via Zoom*

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Nye and seconded by Ms. Parish. All in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer May, Executive Assistant