

Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Via Zoom

Thursday, June 30, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Katie Bronson, Ariel Cardiel, John Celso, Sarah Davis, Jennifer Geiger, Steve Griffin, Andrea McGraw, Julia Murphy, Rick Plympton, Mike Rusinko, Michael Sykes

Guest: Bob Coyne

Staff: Michael Woloson

I. Presentation: Bob Coyne, Executive Director, Rochester Technology and Manufacturing Association

The RTMA's goal is to strengthen our community with workforce development opportunities, with a focus on advanced manufacturing. Originating over 76 years ago, the RTMA was originally the Rochester Machining and Tooling Institute. With over 90 employer, either as members or active in apprenticeships, RTMA has the resources for assist with workforce development and an employee pipeline. The Finger Lakes Youth Apprenticeship Program has been expanded to include all 9-county regions. Last year, RTMA started a boot camp in Batavia in the GV BOCES. For 6 weeks, young adults, including high school students, did 4 hours of training, 4 days a week, working in the afternoon, then worked full time on Fridays. Of the 5 who participated, 3 were hired full time, 1 went to MCC for the Mechatronics program and 1 went into machining. This year's boot camp will have 10 students. Mr. Woloson invited Mr. Coyne to join an upcoming Partners Present to share information.

II. Economic Development Updates

Ms. Bronson – Wayne County's main priority this summer is to pitch their 4th Annual Pitch Competition. The applications are due in September, and they also have a new program, Student Pitch Competition. There will be awards for students and they can participate as individuals or in teams. The intension is to get students interested in starting their own business or developing product ideas. The Microburst Grant program, to help small businesses in the county, is still ongoing and going well.

Ms. Davis – Seneca County is starting to see quite a few projects through the IDA. They are starting to see a big demand for their revolving loan program, largely due to the rising interest rates. John Vrabel was recently able to support obtaining new hires at Bonavista, in Ovid. Business in the county that have been successful in hiring have increased starting wages and looked at alternative types of employment, such as migrant workers and formerly incarcerated workers.

Mr. Griffin – Yates County has seen project inquiries staying strong and an influx of new residents from California and New York City. The county is also working on community amenity projects, with cultural and community facilities being built. In September, Mr. Griffin will be working with a company involved in seasonal employee dormitories and who will now also be providing the employees as well.

III. Workforce Development Updates

Ontario County – Ms. McGraw – The county is still seeing a big interest in OJTs and the Summer Youth Employment Program is ongoing and seeing younger youth enroll, as older youth are already employed. Wages for the program have been increased to \$15/hr.

IV. Finger Lakes WIB Update

Ms. Murphy shared that the June 14th virtual job fair had 38 businesses and 335 job seekers register; 219 job seekers attended both the preview day and live event; 136 attended live event. The next virtual job fair is scheduled for July 12th and has 28 businesses registered so far, with 1,609 openings, and 71 job seekers have registered. A mini in-person job fair is being planned with Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES for August 16th and a NYS Cannabis and Job Summit is scheduled for July 16th in downtown Rochester. Silgan, in Wayne County, announced 65 layoffs with their closure. Rapid Response has been assisting their HR.

Ms. Freid stated that FAME continues with the strategic planning process and membership dues notices have been sent to members. The FAME annual event is being planned for October, to coincide with Manufacturing Month. The FLREDC has been active and the current task is to get together a report for the region containing 4 inventory items: skill sets that are needed in the priority industries, wrap around services (what will it take to get someone employable again), who are we reaching underserved populations. The report will be turned in the second or third week of July.

Next meeting: Friday, September 16, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m.