

Choose Columbia

Columbia Economic Development Corporation

MINUTES COLUMBIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 6, 2021
One Hudson City Centre
Suite 301
Hudson, New York

A regularly scheduled meeting of Columbia Economic Development Corporation's (CEDC) Workforce Development and Education Committee was held via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic on May 6, 2021 at 4:01 pm.

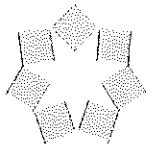
Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived/ Departed
Ruth Adams	Committee Member	Present via Zoom	
David Fingar	Committee Member	Present via Zoom	
Tish Finnegan	Committee Member	Present via Zoom	
Derek Grout	Committee Member	Present via Zoom	
James Lapenn	Committee Chair	Present via Zoom	
John Lee	Committee Member	Present via Zoom	
Carlee Drummer	Board Member	Present Via Zoom	
F. Michael Tucker	President/CEO	Present via Zoom	
Andy Howard	Counsel	Excused	
Lauren Cranna	Business Development Partner	Present via Zoom	
Lisa Drahushuk	Administrative Supervisor	Present via Zoom	
Martha Lane	Business Development Director	Present via Phone	
Erin McNary	Bookkeeper	Present via Zoom	
Cat Lyden	Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant	Present via Zoom	
Bill Teator	Small Business Solution Center	Present via Zoom	
Ryan Van Amburgh	Small Business Solution Center	Present Via Zoom	

Minutes:

Mr. Fingar made a motion, seconded by Mr. Grout to approve the minutes from March 4, 2021. Carried.

Career Jam:

Mr. Tucker asked Mr. Van Amburgh and Mr. Teator to review the Career Jam site with the attendees. Mr. Van Amburgh shared his screen with the attendees and reviewed the site content. He noted the



Choose Columbia

Columbia Economic Development Corporation

student had been very engaged with the site. Mr. Teator stated they hoped to utilize the virtual site as a wrap-around to an in person event

Junior Career Leadership Institute:

Mr. Tucker stated the program had had a virtual graduation in January and the contact had been ongoing with the participants. He stated Kelly Ann Radzik was uncomfortable beginning internships at the present time. He stated students were seeking information about their chosen careers. They thought they might have a panel discussions at the college levels discussing their fields of interests. He noted others had expressed interest in visiting a business. Ms. Radzik felt business visits could be set up in the Village of Catskill and the City of Hudson. Internships could possibly be arranged through the Columbia –Greene Workforce office. He noted there was a great deal of interest in next years' program. Mr. Tucker stated the NYS Workforce expressed interest in partnering in the program as did the Chamber of Commerce.

Career Fair:

Mr. Tucker stated CEDC had partnered over the past three years with Columbia-Greene Community College, NYS Workforce and Columbia Greene Media on the Career Fair. He stated this year the Workforce office is asking to partner with CEDC, the Greene County and Columbia County Chambers of Commerce for a virtual career fair in early to mid-August.

Microbusiness Seminar:

Ms. Lane gave an overview of the Microbusiness program. She noted the SBA has approved CEDC for additional technical assistance this year. She stated additional technical assistance may be offered to the Microbusiness course attendees. She stated assistance had been offered to the recipients of the Galvan Minority and Women Business assistance grants this year. Ms. Lane stated Entrepreneur For All program was interested in expanding into Columbia County. She stated they don't provide loans, but have a year-long incubator program. She stated the program served underserved individuals. After the incubator program they are paired with three mentors who continue to be available for an additional year. Mr. Tucker stated conversations were ongoing.

Focused Training Opportunities:

Hospitality:

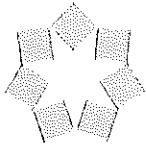
Clean Energy:

Manufacturing:

Coding:

Other:

Mr. Tucker stated a number of conversations had been had with specific business types. He noted Ms. Lane, Ms. Wilber and himself had conversations with hospitality businesses. He noted there were different tracks of training. One a basic hospitality training and a second for soft skills before learning



Choose Columbia

Columbia Economic Development Corporation

basic hospitality skills. A second was for historic restoration. He noted several meetings had been held. Basilica Hudson had reached out regarding clean energy jobs. He felt CEDC needed to be aware of all the initiatives and determine where CEDC can be most effective with the resources.

Mr. Fingar asked CEDC's role. Mr. Tucker stated CEDC could serve as a convener. Mr. Lapenn asked about the use of The Strategic Plan. Mr. Tucker noted the last plan was several years old. He felt the pillars of the plan were still appropriate. He noted the goals and objectives were clear. He noted CEDC has proved its willingness to take on whatever it could, but noted it has limitations. He asked for the Committee's ideas on the role of CEDC.

Apprenticeship:

Mentoring:

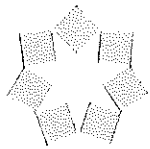
Mr. Tucker felt guidance was needed going forward on the level of involvement of CEDC. He noted COVID had brought this to the fore. Mr. Lapenn felt this went back to the original question posed at the first Workforce meeting, "what is the role of CEDC?"

Mr. Lapenn asked Dr. Drummer to address the hand-out she had provided the Board. Dr. Drummer reviewed the continuing education tax benefit that had been extended to employers. She asked that the word be spread about the topic. Mr. Tucker stated the information had been distributed to the Chamber of Commerce, the Workforce and Education Committee. He stated it would be included in the Columbia Comeback e-blast. He stated it would be discussed at the Columbia Comeback call on May 10th. He encouraged everyone to pass the word.

Mr. Tucker stated he and Mr. Lapenn had a conversation regarding a Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation programs. He stated one program involved hosting a speaker. He noted Dr. Drummer had begun work on this prior to COVID. He suggested that perhaps a Workforce /Education Series could be presented. Mr. Lapenn noted that the series discussed was nearly complete with one remaining. He felt a writeup could be available for review. Mr. Tucker stated he could get the links and disseminate.

Mr. Tucker thanked Dr. Drummer for her keynote speech at the Annual Meeting.

Mr. Fingar asked the next steps. Mr. Tucker stated he had contacted Mary Ellen O'Laughlin to review and revise the Strategic Plan. He will be addressing this at the Governance and Nominating Committee meeting. He noted several members have asked what role CEDC could play. He felt it was important to determine where our resources should designated. He felt it was important to address this going forward. He noted Columbia County was interested in CEDC completing some broadband related work.



Choose Columbia

Columbia Economic Development Corporation

Public Comment:

With no public present and no further comments, Mr. Fingar made a motion, seconded by Mr. Grout, to adjourn the meeting at 4:56pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Drahusik