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Columbia Economic Development Corporation

MINUTES
COLUMBIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Thursday, January 13, 2022
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 in person & via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic on January 13, 2022 at 8:33 am.

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	Excused	
James Lapenn	Committee Chair	Present in person	
John Lee	Committee Member	Excused	
Carlee Drummer	Board Member	Present via Zoom	
F. Michael Tucker	President/CEO	Present in person	
Andy Howard	Counsel	Present in person	
Chris Nardone	Workforce NY	Present via Zoom	
Lauren Cranna	Business Development Partner	Present via Zoom	
Lisa Drahushuk	Administrative Supervisor	Present in person	
Martha Lane	Business Development Director	Present in person	

Minutes:

Mr. Fingar made a motion, seconded by Ms. Adams to approve the minutes from November 4, 2021. Carried.

Workforce & Education Committee Charter:

Ms. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fingar to approve the Workforce & Education Committee Charter as presented. Carried.

2021 Discharged Duties:

Ms. Finnegan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Adams to approve the 2021 Discharged Duties as presented. Carried.



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Strategic Project Discussion:

Mr. Tucker introduced Christopher Nardone, the Director of Columbia -Greene Workforce NY Career Center. He stated Mr. Nardone would be giving an overview of some of the data his office collects as well as some of the activities his office is involved with. Mr. Nardone stated those seeking jobs are easily finding them and at a higher than previous rate of pay. He noted the larger corporate businesses including chain stores and restaurants are paying whatever it takes to obtain workers. He noted this was negatively affecting the local independent small businesses, which don't have the same resources. He noted some people are leaving jobs, obtaining training for other positions and finding employment quickly. He noted this was increasing the problem by leaving a vacuum in the low skill workforce sector. He noted that bringing in visa holders had been investigated, but noted there was no housing available and transportation continued to be an issue. He noted the issue included Greene County as well. He felt this would be a problem over the next few years.

Career Jam:

Mr. Tucker gave the statistics from the past program. He noted they are moving forward with a program encompassing an 8-11 county program. He noted CEDC had preferred a small, more local program. He noted Career Jam had sent a licensing and servicing agreement which totaled \$34,000 for 2022. He reminded the Committee, CEDC had paid \$15,000 the previous year. He stated he was trying to obtain for them some grant money on a regional basis in order to decrease the price. He stated they had also partnered with the Junior Achievement program. He stated he would keep the Committee posted.

Career Connects:

Mr. Tucker gave an update on the program which had been transitioned to Columbia -Greene Community College. He stated Kellyanne Radzik had held the first meet and greet session earlier in the week with two additional sessions this past Saturday. She noted the early outreach for attendees had been a struggle. Dr. Drummer stated the Career Institute was also launched on the past weekend. She described the topics and the issues faced during the past couple of weeks.

Microbusiness Seminar:

Ms. Lane stated the class had wrapped up in November. She stated all ten participants had completed the course, and she continued to work with them. She stated she would be begin her recruitment in the upcoming summer for the next class.

Entrepreneurship For All:

Ms. Lane gave an overview of the program, noting the local organization was backed by the Berkshire Taconic Foundation. She stated the target audience were primarily underserved residents. She stated there were 5 spaces for Columbia County residents interested in turning their ideas into a business. She noted this was a yearlong program and fairly intensive. She hoped that eventually the participants would come to CEDC for microloans.



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Mr. Tucker stated the project was seeking funding for the program and had asked CEDC for \$25,000. He had had asked for a revised request at a more appropriate level.

Focused Training Opportunities:

Hospitality:

Clean Energy:

Manufacturing:

Coding:

Other:

Mr. Tucker stated these were all under continual discussion because the City of Hudson IDA is requiring each project applicant provide some type of workforce training benefit. He stated he wanted to discuss these with the College. He stated he had had several conversations with Chris Nardone about reconvening the group and continuing discussions. He noted they had reviewed who was not in the labor pool, and how to provide training when some needed to work at the same time as they trained. He noted the hospitality training could be provided by Questar.

Apprenticeship:

Mentoring:

Mr. Tucker stated it would stay on the list, but noted the majority of Columbia County employers averaged less than 10 employees. He noted the training was done in house.

Mr. Lapenn noted several Board members had received a mailing from the Columbia –Greene Foundation requesting funding. Mr. Tucker clarified CEDC’s informal policies of supporting County organizations. He stated he would suggest CEDC support Columbia –Greene Community College in other ways other than a direct financial donation. Dr. Drummer clarified the request was not meant to go to CEDC directly but only to the Board members.

Public Comment:

With no public present and no further comments, Ms. Adams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lapenn, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Draushuk