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MINUTES
COLUMBIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 3, 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 March 3, 2022 at 4:04 pm.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived/ Departed
Ruth Adams	Committee Member	Present via Zoom	
David Fingar	Committee Member	Present in person	
Tish Finnegan	Committee Member	Present via Zoom	
Derek Grout	Committee Member	Excused	
James Lapenn	Committee Chair	Excused	
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	
Lisa Marie Spindler	Hudson City School District	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	
Cathy Lyden	Bookkeeper	Excused	

Minutes:

Ms. Finnegan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Adams to approve the minutes from January 13, 2022. Carried.

Strategic Project Discussions:

Career Jam:

Ms. Drummer stated the College would be hosting the 2022 Career Jam

Mr. Fingar introduced the new Superintendent of Hudson City School District, Lisa Marie Spindler. Mr. Tucker gave an overview of the upcoming program. He noted they are moving forward with an



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expanded program including a virtual program in the Spring, and an in person event in the fall. He wished to commit to do the fall program in partnership financially with Greene County. He explained the program for Ms. Spindler. Ms. Drummer stated the feedback was less enthusiastic from the virtual program than it was from the in person program.

Career Connections:

Dr. Drummer gave an update on the program which had been transitioned to Columbia –Greene Community College. She noted the Berkshire Taconic Foundation had provided funding to support the program. She explained two juniors were taken from every school district in their coverage area. If they completed the two year program, they would receive a half year tuition scholarship. There are discussion of expanding the program to more students.

Entrepreneurship For All:

Ms. Lane stated currently the program was underway, with three participants from Columbia County. Mr. Tucker stated CEDC was working with the Black Entrepreneur Market organization. He noted attorneys had been retained for them with technical assistance funding, to assist them with the formal structuring of the business.

Focused Training Opportunities:

Hospitality:

He stated Rebecca Wolff had undertaken a focused training for Hudson residents in hospitality. Mr. Tucker stated the focus needed to be broadened, noting once the hotels are fully functional, they will be training in house, reducing the need for a program.

Clean Energy:

Manufacturing:

He referenced Basilica Hudson had received a grant and was working on a training program. He briefly described a potential project to acquire property on the waterfront accessible by rail for preconstruction space for wind turbines

Coding:

Mr. Tucker stated this has never gotten off the ground locally. Ms. Spindler asked Mr. Tucker to forward her the information regarding the coding.

Other:

Mr. Tucker briefly discussed ideas being reviewed for the Forward Columbia funding from the County to the Chamber of Commerce and CEDC.



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Internships:

Apprenticeship:

Mentoring:

Mr. Tucker noted the cost of these programs are costly to the small businesses, and investigation was ongoing.

Mr. Tucker stated the County and CEDC would be sponsoring a virtual County wide housing conference. He would send the information once it was confirmed. He stated they were also discussing studies in the towns for sewer district.

Dr. Spindler stated she was investigating expanding the student opportunities for internships. She was investigating ways to have some of the students gain life skill experience, and was interested in finding businesses to offer internship positions to student in various positions and the students would earn credit for their work instead of money. She stated the school counselors would guide the business owners in their duties as mentors.

Mr. Fingar reminded the Committee that the Committee would be losing their chair in May. He asked them to consider a successor.

Public Comment:

With no public present and no further comments, Ms. Finnegan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Adams, to adjourn the meeting at 4:48pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Draushuk