

# STATEWIDE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TASKFORCE

Summary from March 25, 2013 meeting held at OCHE

Attendance in person: Co-Chairs John Cech ( Deputy Commissioner of Two-Year Education-Montana University System) and Waded Cruzado (President-Montana State University), Daniel Bingham (Dean–Helena College), Pam Bucy (Commissioner-Department of Labor and Industries), Royce Engstrom (President-University of Montana), Barry Good (Dean-Missoula College), David Hall (College!NOW Coordinator-Montana University System), Sue Jones (Director of Two-Year Mission Integration-Montana University System), James Limbaugh (Chancellor-Montana State University Northern), Meg O’Leary (Director- Department of Commerce), and Susan Wolff (Dean-Great Falls College).

Attendance by conference phone: Steve Arveschoug (Executive Director-Big Sky Economic Development Association), Jane Baker (Interim President-Dawson Community College), Brad Eldredge (Flathead Valley Community College), John Garic (Dean-Highlands College), John Harper ( Billings Job Service), Jane Karas (President-Flathead Valley Community College), Mel Lehman (Wind Project Manager-Great Falls College), Jeri Pullum (Special Project Coordinator-Great Falls College), Marsha Riley (Dean-City College), Anneliese Ripley (Dean School of Outreach-University of Montana Western), Lisa Skriner (Director of Workforce Development-City College), Tim Robbins (Billings Job Service), and Kassie Taylor (Workforce Development Coordinator-Miles Community College).

## **City College at MSU Billings Workforce Development Summit**

Dean Marsha Riley presented an overview of the March 19, 2013 Summit, attended by 180 people.

- The keynote speaker was Dr. P. Anthony Zeiss, President, Central Piedmont Community College, North Carolina.
- Two excellent panels of practitioners and business representatives presented.
- City College is looking for ways to ensure it meets the needs of the community and workforce ten years into the future.
- The group drafted a vision statement and strategies to meet the vision.

## **Continued efforts and partnerships to respond to Montana’s workforce training needs**

Waded Cruzado said the Regents continue to be very interested in workforce development.

- Our task force should make regular reports to the Board of Regents (BOR), emphasizing one campus at each BOR meeting.
- She suggested a decentralized model:
  - If each campus were given an option of one project – what would it be?
  - The four-year campuses need to step aside.
  - John Cech said he would ask the two-year campuses to submit these ideas to him for summary.

## **Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) Discussion**

CPL should be a part of our TAACCCT Grant:

- It is a good fit for our two-year colleges, especially for students who are veterans.
- It already exists on most of our campuses.

The fundamental ACE credit recommendations are a good place to start with policy formulation.

## **Montana’s preparation for statewide TAACCCT Consortium Grant - John Cech, Susan Wolff, Brad Eldredge, Jeri Pullum, and Mel Lehman**

John Cech reported on the two rounds of TAACCCT grants:

- Each round is for \$500 million, with all indications that the second round of \$500 million will be available.
- The SGA will not change much from the first round.
- Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC) was the only successful Montana public college to get a grant.
  - Therefore, it cannot be the lead institution in this year’s grant application.
  - Great Falls College has stepped forward to be the lead.
  - FVCC will be a supporting partner.

The Corporation for a Skilled Workforce (CSW):

- John Cech’s research shows other successful applicants have worked with CSW has worked on over 20 different state applications in the first two rounds.
- CSW also worked with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry on a grant in 2008.
- We are trying to get sole-source status for CSW.

The theme for this year's Montana consortium is, "Energy Development and Advanced Manufacturing."

- This should be a good fit for Montana.
- Strategically, we should not join other state consortia.
- Susan Wolff reported that we already have several activities occurring in the two theme areas.
- Participation surveys have been sent to all of Montana's colleges, including tribal colleges.
  - Only the colleges really interested will be asked to be a part of the consortium.

Brad Eldredge commented that the U.S. Department of Labor will ensure what we do is driven by Montana's workforce needs.

- CSW will help convene the work, especially as it relates to businesses.
- CSW will look at what we have within our colleges and how that can fit into the consortium.

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NOTE: The following is a TAACCCT Update after the March 25, 2013 meeting held at OCHE which was summarized above.

#### TAACCCT UPDATE

The following colleges are provisional partners in the 2013 Montana Consortium application:

Bitterroot College	Helena College
City College	Highlands College
Dawson Community College	Little Big Horn College
Flathead Valley Community College	Miles Community College
Fort Peck Community College	Missoula College
Gallatin College	MSU Northern
Great Falls College	

#### Montana will be actively pursuing a statewide consortium application

- Montana will request \$20-25 million dollars.
- The state's application will focus on the themes of energy and advanced manufacturing.
- The US DOL has made it very clear they are expecting the applications to include:
  - Clearly defined relationships and partnerships with business and industry.
  - Evidence that business and industry are actively involved with the creation of the grant proposal.
- Montana's proposal must be submitted by July 1, 2013.

#### Surveys and Interviews already Conducted

- Each institution has completed a survey.
- Each institution has also been phone interviewed by representatives of the Steering Committee, which included:
  - Our CSW consultant.
  - Flathead Valley Community College (2<sup>nd</sup> Round TAACCCT Recipient).
  - Great Falls College (the lead college).
- Other members of our Steering Committee reviewed the information gathered from the completed surveys and interviews:
  - Representatives from Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI).
  - Flathead Valley Community College.
  - Great Falls College.
  - CSW.

**Next Steps:**

- Each college will send a survey link to organizations that will be hiring energy and/or advanced manufacturing graduates, including:
  - Employers.
  - Chambers of commerce.
  - *Job Service Employer Committees*.
  - Program advisory committees.
  - Other organizations.
- Employers need to complete the electronic survey no later than May 10, 2013.
- Each college will also commit to either:
  - hold a focus group of employers in the energy and/or advanced manufacturing industry, and/or
  - conduct no fewer than six interviews.
- Focus groups and interviews must also be completed by the May 10 deadline.
- Our steering committee will work with our CSW consultant and the Montana DLI to economically model these Montana industries using EMSI and SOC codes.
  - This data will be provided to our consortium partners.

**Conclusion**

This is a very tight timeline, given the shortened timeline provided by the US DOL for consortium proposals. However, this grant represents a tremendous opportunity for each of Montana's colleges and the future of our State.