



STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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BOARD MINUTES

Iowa Workforce Development Board Meeting

June 11, 2026

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

DMACC Urban Campus

Agenda Item 1. Call to Order

Chair LuAnn Scholbrock called to order the meeting of the Iowa Workforce Development Board (the Board) on June 11, 2026, at approximately 11:00 am.

Agenda Item 2. Roll Call

Chair Scholbrock asked Shelly Evans to call role for purposes of establishing a quorum of the Board.

Members in Attendance

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Dawn Driscoll | 8. Kelly Barrick |
| 2. Barb Kniff McCulla | 9. Jack Hasken |
| 3. Beth Townsend | 10. LuAnn Scholbrock |
| 4. Stacy Cervenka / Keri Osterhaus | 11. Jessica Dunker |
| 5. Brandy McOmber | 12. Brad Elliott |
| 6. Teresa Hovell | 13. Ofelia Rumbo |
| 7. Scott Naumann | 14. Nick Glew |

15. Charlie Wishman
16. Pam Gonzales
17. Jason Shanks
18. Kris Byam

19. Tiffany O'Donnell
20. Ryan Zantingh as Designee for
Director MacKenzie Snow

Members Absent

1. Jane Dufoe
2. Astra Ferris
3. Tiffany O'Donnell

Shelly Evans called roll and advised Chair Scholbrock that quorum was established.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of Agenda (Attachment 1)

Chair Scholbrock called the next order of business which was the approval of the meeting Agenda for June 11, 2026. The agenda was previously emailed to the Members of the Board.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Motion to Approve the Agenda for 6/11/26.

Dawn Driscoll motioned to approve the Agenda and Barb Kniff McCullough seconded the motion. Members of the Board in attendance voted on the motion by voice vote, which carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4. Approval of Minutes 3/2/26 (Attachment 2)

Chair Scholbrock called the next order of business which was the approval of the meeting Minutes for March 2, 2026. The minutes were previously emailed to the Members of the Board.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Motion to Approve the Minutes for 3/2/26.

Teresa Hovell motioned to approve the Minutes and Jack Hasken seconded the motion. Members of the Board in attendance voted on the motion by voice vote, which carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 5. Approval of Minutes 3/12/26 (Attachment 3)

Chair Scholbrock called the next order of business which was the approval of the meeting Minutes for March 12, 2026. The minutes were previously emailed to the Members of the Board.

- **ACTION ITEM: Motion to Approve the Minutes for 3/12/26.**

Jason Shanks motioned to approve the Minutes and Kelly Barrick seconded the motion. Members of the Board in attendance voted on the motion by voice vote, which carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 6. Welcome by LuAnn Scholbrock, Chair

Chair Scholbrock welcomes attendees.

- Welcome.
- Self-introduction of new members:
 - Pam Gonzales. IMAW District 6. Introduced by Carrie Duncan and resuming spot for Carrie Duncan.
 - Kris Byam. Executive Director, Great Oaks High School and Career Center. Public school in Des Moines. Previously worked at IWD with apprenticeship agency, teacher paraeducator, and registered apprenticeship, and health careers registered programs. Good connection between workforce and education. I look forward to working with all of you.
 - Niki Conrad. I am honored to sit on this board. Serves on Fort Dodge Webster County Board of Supervisors. Works as Director of Marketing and Public Relations at Friendship Haven, a continuing care retirement community.

Agenda Item 7. Ratification of Executive Committee Consultation of the State of Iowa Workforce Pell Grant Program Guidance draft and High-Demand, High-Wage, and High-Skill (H3-aligned) Standard Occupational Code (SOC) Regional Lists for Workforce Pell Grants by Michelle McNertney, Executive Director of the SWDB. (Attachment 4 – Draft Iowa Workforce Pell Grant Program Guidance; Attachment 5 – Workforce Pell H3-aligned SOC Regional Lists).

Michelle McNertney opened discussions. Working as a state on Workforce Pell Grant eligibility for the last several years. At the last board meeting the statewide H3, high-wage, high-skills, high-demand list, was voted on and approved to recommend that list to the Governor. Workforce Pell became law with HR1 on 7/4/26 and will be official as of 7/1/26. In order for Iowa to be the first state to take advantage of this, we are pushing to get our programs determined and eligible as quickly as possible. We are ahead of our federal partners in this because no final regulations have been provided yet. April timeframe expected. Board must consult on the policies, procedures, H3 lists, etc. Executive Committee held a meeting on 5/15/26. After the final regs were published a draft was put forth of polices and program guidance. Able to add beyond the H3 list previously approved for occupations that meet the high-wage, high-demand, high-skill definition across the state. Able to add a few additional to the regional list. Executive Committee consults on those two items (Attachments 4 and 5 in board packet). Bringing that decision to the full board today to consider and ratify their decisions. Ryan Zantingh, Department of Education, was a part of that process as well as Ryan Murphy with the Labor Market Information (LMI) division of IWD.

7.1 -- Action Item: Motion to ratify Executive Committee consultation and recommendation to the Governor's Office approval of the State of Iowa Workforce Pell Grant Program Guidance draft and High-Demand, High-Wage, and High-Skill (H3-aligned) SOC Regional Lists for Workforce Pell Grants.

Dawn Driscoll motioned to approve ratify Executive Committee consultation and recommendation to the Governor's Office on approval of the State of Iowa Workforce Pell Grant Program Guidance draft and High-Demand, High-Wage, and High-Skill (H3-aligned) SOC Regional Lists for Workforce Pell Grants and Teresa Hovell Teresa Hovell seconded the motion. Members of the Board in attendance voted on the motion by voice vote, which carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 8. Discussion of Applications for Workforce Training Program Eligibility for Workforce Pell Grants for the 2026/2027 Award Year by Michelle McNertney, Division Administrator Workforce Services. (Attachment 6 – Applicant List)

Ryan Zantingh opened discussions on the applications.

Receiving and reviewing applications from April 1 opening date. Received 20 applications from 7 different community colleges (CC). Vetting applications for adherence to eligibility criteria.

- Programs align with H3 occupations.
- Program structure and length within parameters.
- By law producing high-quality outcomes for job placement and completion rates.
- Lead to recognized post-secondary credential.
- Stackable and portable.
- Meet hiring requirements of employers.
- All things true for at least 12 months.

Law requires Governor submit an attestation that the SWDB was consulted in evaluating whether a program is eligible. That is basis for discussion today. Will then forward the submitted applications and materials to the Governor the ultimate state approval for these programs. After state approval, submitted to the U.S. Department of Education, for ultimate approval. Going forward the implementation team will determine the best way to structure our process going forward for future applications and renewals. Programs do

need to be re-approved every year. Same process with website and program guide. Continue to make necessary updates as guidance is provided.

Summary of applications.

- 9 programs vetted and appear to meet all eligibility criteria. Breakout into 3 CDL programs, 3 EMT programs and 3 programs in manufacturing or trades.
- 5 programs that met all except for the weeks of instruction parameters. Code requires programs be at least 8 weeks of instruction but less than 15 weeks of instruction. Week of instruction is defined as any 7-day period where at least one of those days is scheduled instruction. Those 5 programs didn't currently meet in structure or haven't met for 12 months. Some redesigned or restructured to fit but just hasn't been 12 months so they could become approved within the next year.
- 4 applications for registered apprenticeship programs, all from Hawkeye CC. Not structured for workforce eligible and would need significant changes in structure.
- 1 application withdraw prior to review.
- 1 application did not align with state's H3 definition.

Jason Shanks – regarding the 8 weeks but less than 15, is that in a year or over the course of their training?

Ryan Zantingh – those weeks of instruction do not have to be consecutive. Can be broken out so length of the program, in terms of time span, can exceed that 15 weeks. Any 7 day period where there's instruction scheduled. Those can't be more than 15 weeks, actually 14 weeks.

Jason Shanks – if you have a program that lasts 5 years but you go to 6 weeks of training a year, would that qualify if it's over a period of 5 years? Essentially the total program would be 30 weeks.

Ryan Zantingh – I don't think so. Keep in mind how that would actually be paid out. Event if it was eligible, the amount of the Pell Grant is based on enrollment in a payment period so it might be quite small payments. I doubt it would be eligible.

8.1 -- Action Item: Motion to recommend approval of Applicant List for Workforce Training Programs to be Eligible for Workforce Pell Grants for the 20267/2027 Award Year.

Jessica Dunker motioned to approve recommendations of Application List for Workforce Training Program Eligibility for Workforce Pell Grants for 2026/2027 Award Year and Ofelia Rumbo seconded the motion. Members of the Board in attendance voted on the motion by voice vote, which carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 9. Discussion on appointing Vice Chair for SWDB by LuAnn Scholbrock, Chair.

Chair Scholbrock opened discussions on appointing Vice Chair for the SWDB.

- Scott Naumann has volunteered to become the next Vice Chair. Thank you very much for your willingness to serve.

Scott Naumann – grateful for the opportunity to be a resource. I think it's important if we are needed to step up and fill the void. Happy to do it and appreciate support and collaboration.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Motion to appoint Scott Naumann as Vice Chair for the SWDB.

Teresa Hovell motioned to approve Scott Naumann as Vice Chair for the SWDB and Beth Townsend seconded the motion. Members of the Board in attendance voted on the motion by voice vote, which carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 10. Discussion on appointing a SWDB member to the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) by Brandy McOmber, Division Administrator Vocational Rehabilitation Services. (Attachment 7, Description of SRC and member requirements)

Brandy McOmber opened discussions on appointing a SWDB member. State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) is a federally required component of the vocational rehabilitation regulations and has specific requirements for members in the regulations which includes a SWDB member. SRC serves as advisor capacity as it relates to service to individuals with disabilities. Last member completed her term. Responsibilities include

advising IVRS on program performance. Focusing on business needs as well as advocacy for individuals with disabilities and policy consultation. It's wonderful to have a board member to bring the business perspective. Severely missing that right now. Members are typically appointed in July or later. If you are interested there is more information in your board packet with contact information.

Agenda Item 11. Discussion on Members for SWDB Committees by LuAnn Scholbrock, Chair. (Attachment 8, Committee Member Lists)

LuAnn Scholbrock opened discussions on members for SWDB committees.

Pathways to Employment committee members needed. Responsible for providing expertise to align with workforce strategies to assist individuals with barriers to gain the skills, education, and resources to find gainful employment while ensuring employers have a skilled workforce to grow with opportunities in Iowa. Opportunity for this board to serve.

Jessica Dunker – we have not convened. Encourage board members who know people outside of the board of serving would be very helpful. Education, skilled trades. If unable to serve interested in talking to anyone from career tech ed or post-secondary, anyone outside of this board. Must have a few members to get started.

Agenda Item 12. Update from Iowa Plains Committee by Kent Heronimus, Chair.

Kent Heronimus provided an update.

Make sure we have industry representation on our committee. Great job working with our business engagement and IWD. We have got every position has been filled except for one labor organization in Council Bluffs area. Gone from half to full in the last 3 months, it's been huge. Awesome to see number of employers who want to be involved and grow the workforce in Iowa Plains. Doing onboarding of new members, goals, objectives and sharing dashboard. Want to help employees and employers find the workforce they need.

Large emphasis on work-based learning (WBL). Huge for me at Interstates and have individuals come in an experience what it is like. Working with Kathy and identified several different organizations that would be great at getting involved with WBL. Spreading the word and getting more people involved and holding informational meetings. Want to get opportunities set up for Iowa residents to get in and experience industry. Sector partnership is huge opportunity for businesses to identify areas of struggle. Working with business engagement to identify potential leaders in sector partnership. Trying to find industry that's open to have sector partnerships in the area. Great things happening and Elziabeth, Linda, Omar, and Kathy – huge in helping us getting the committee where they are at today.

Agenda Item 13. Update from Disability Access Committee by Brandy McOmber, Chair.

Brandy McOmber provided an update.

Held meetings in January and April. Keep meetings quarterly and next in July. Last meeting had self-advocates join, Alex Waters, Hugh Kelly as well as rep from health and human services. SRC would love some business and industry on the committee.

- Working on having local DAC request one page business tool to help assist in hiring people with disabilities. Want perspective from business and industry on ways to assist with fears and unknowns of hiring individuals with disabilities.
- Reviewing current webpage and updating outdated materials. Last update was 10 years ago.
- Employer engagement discussions. Potential focus groups and surveys to understand needs of employee/employer. Working on proposal to submit to DAC and how to generate interest.
- Early planning for National Disability Employer Awareness Month (NDEAM) in October. Interest in continuing statewide webinars.
- Ideas generated of exploring panels with brown bag sessions. Team is working on streamlining these efforts.
- Delay in digital accessibility standards for websites. How Iowa Workforce can serve as partner in providing guidance.

Agenda Item 14. Update on Systems and Policy Committee by Jack Hasken, Chair.

Jack Hasken provided an update.

Was chair of System Committee. Recently voted to add policy to committee. Met for the first time on April 30. Members: Kelly Barrick, Nick Glew, Jack Hasken, Michelle McNertney, Ryan Murphy, Carolyn Farley, and Shelly Evans. Great ideas. Goal to make sure system is in fact working and effective. 5 priorities: 1) performance data, 2) core partnership program, 3) customer satisfaction, 4) American Job Center (AJC) branding, and 5) staff and training / integrated services. Got through 3 priorities. Putting AJC branding on hold. Election year and new administration. Want to tackle staff training and integrated services. Policy committee has a very low bar, never met. Talked about inventory of current policies, what programs are covered, state and federal. Develop recommendations for policy review, how they connect and impact the system. Hearing about AI. Very hot topic both state and federal. Ryan Murphy gave AI presentation just to get our feet wet. Need to look at for both system and policy. Hot topics: AI and training and workforce money CC and technical schools getting training funds. I recently sent one employee for a week of training shows commitment to employee by business. Next meeting June 24. Meet monthly to get traction.

Agenda Item 15. Director's Report.

Beth Townsend provides the following Director's report.

- Winding down the end of this administration. Getting things lined up for new Governor and staff when they come in in January.
- Working with DE on getting Workforce Pell program across the finish line and getting those 8-9 programs to the Governor's desk so she can recommend them to the U.S. Department of Education for approval and get the programs launched.
- Modernization is going very well. Got over bumps experienced when we went live. Been live with new system for over a year. Most part the knicks have been worked

out. From very beginning no disruption in payments of claims. Our number one goal was to continue to pay unemployment claims without disruption while we transitioned and we were successful in doing that. Unique situations did arise that we couldn't have prepared for and we made adjustments. People are understanding how to use the new system. Have had a large number of layoffs in 2026 and those have been processed very well with little difficulty for those affected by layoffs such as CNH and Whirlpool.

- Legislative session is over. Felt like it was a good one for IWD. Legislature codified Reemployment Case Management (RCM) which was our number 1 priority. The early intervention program will continue through the next administration. We continue to be the only state in the country that reaches out to individuals who file for unemployment the very first week they file. As seen in the last four years, claimants stay on unemployment far less than they otherwise would. We are happy with the success of this program and that we secured some funding for it regardless of who Governor is.
- Legislative actions clean up. Other challenges. Funding was secured for the Iowa Office of Apprenticeship through modification to language for the 84F program. Some rollover funds that we are going to be able to access to fill in gaps on the federal end. Some changes made to the Apprenticeship Act with a little additional money available for employers that can apply for funding under 84E program. Want to do better job of creating awareness to applicants who are eligible so we can increase the pool of eligibility. Oftentimes it is the same people apply for that funding but would like more people to take advantage of the program.
- Remainder of the year making sure we have everything in place so staff is in good position to talk with the new Governor and Directors. Confident they are going to be.
- Make sure SWDB can articulate what you are working on and what your priorities are and working with the new Governor.

Agenda Item 16. Public Comments.

Derek Ahrens, Federal Project Officer/Workforce Development Specialist, US Department of Labor.

- Works mostly with Michelle and WIOA team and federal grant programs. .
- Encouraging to see collaboration between state's workforce and education partners.
- Great to see implementation of Workforce Pell. Coordination has really been a focus with the administration and trying to create a more seamless system for everyone.
- DOL is focusing on building a skills-first workforce system through initiatives like WIOA, Career and Technical Education, Workforce Pell, and registered apprenticeship. Trying to create clearer pathways to get individuals into good paying jobs. Help employers find the talent they need. Key part of that effort is with America's Talent Strategy which was issued last summer. It has five pillars focusing on aligning the workforce, education, industry partners around skill development, expanding work0based training opportunities, and ensuring training investments are connected to labor market demand.
- Emphasize importance of AI literacy and building digital skills across every sector. AL continues to grow and enhance.
- Major priority is expanding registered apprenticeships. Administration's goal is to have 1 million active apprentices by the year 2029. Great to see Iowa is working to contribute to enhance those opportunities for job seekers and building roles in both traditional trades and emerging industries.

Great to see many of today's discussions in support of these national priorities and we appreciate the leadership this board continues to provide. Thanks for your commitment to enhancing the state's workforce system.

Agenda Item 17. Adjournment

Charlie Wishman motion to adjourn.

Chair Scholbrock adjourned the meeting of the Board at 11:53 am.



Shelly Evans - Executive Assistant to the SWDB

Equal opportunity employer/program. Accommodations are available upon
request: workforce.iowa.gov/accessibility