

# 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.