

**Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County**

Technology Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 12, 2023

1:00 – 2:00pm

CareerForce Saint Paul – 540 Fairview Avenue North, St. Paul

**Present:**

Sam Drong  
Caroline Karanja  
Tony Lusiba  
Koami Pedado  
Mary Rick

**Absent:**

Ama Asantewaa-EA  
Sabina Saksena-EA

**Staff/Guests:**

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions  
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions  
Rebecca Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions

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**Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement**

Chair Lusiba called the meeting to order at 1:06pm. Committee members enjoyed lunch and engaged in a conversation about the second UX cohort, led by Hack the Gap. Karanja provided an update on the cohort which will focus on increasing knowledge of technology for women as an onramp for tech careers. There was discussion around the need for digital literacy, e.g., introduction to computers 101; apprenticeships; readiness for boot camp; and budget/finance management.

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**Approve November Minutes**

**Motion (Karanja/Lusiba) to approve the November 14, 2022, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by vote.**

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**Conflict of Interest Acknowledgement**

Each WIB and committee member is asked to read and sign the Acknowledgement each year. Signed forms should be sent to Milbrandt.

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**Committee Work Plan/Project Updates**

*State of Tech Talent Report:* Becker provided a brief overview of the Tech Talent report, indicating it looks less favorable than it should with Minnesota ranking 50th out of 50 states in percentage of high schools offering computer science coursework.

*Tech Month – May 2023:* Becker shared that May is Tech month. Discussion centered on Tech Month events and gathering feedback and support from the committee on how to move forward. The focus for Tech Month will be lifting up the tech labor market. Ideas for events included supporting the Johnson High School robotics expo (Rick), supporting a tour of Ecolab for bootcamp attendees with a focus on women in tech (Rick and Karanja) and hosting a tech data discussion with targeted invites to employers/HR staff who are requiring 4-year degrees (Becker and Milbrandt). The WIB will be asked for financial support of approximately \$5,000 for these events. The committee plans to meet a couple times before May to pull everything together.

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**Director Updates:**

No update provided on the following:

*Connectivity Blueprint*

*ARPA Update*

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**Adjourn**

Upon completion of the agenda, meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 9, 2023 1-2pm.