

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

Technology Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 12, 2022

1:00 – 2:00pm

Present:

Sam Drong
Caroline Karanja
Tony Lusiba
Koami Pedado
Diane Rucker

Absent:

Kowsar Mohamed
Sabina Saksena-EA
Carly Voshell

Staff/Guests:

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Rebecca Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Greg Weaver, IT Career Lab

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Chair Lusiba called the meeting to order at 1:03pm. Drong read the Land Acknowledgement.

Approve March Minutes

Motion (Lusiba/Rucker) to approve the March 10, 2022, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Committee Work Plan/Project Updates

Tech Month Events Recap: Becker provided a recap of the successful Tech Month and members who participated at the various events shared their positive experience. Discussion was had on how to dovetail from these Tech Month events. Suggestions included a VR pop-up event and an “Entrepreneur in Residence” around Twin Cities Start Up Week.

ARPA Update: Becker provided an update on all the projects being worked on and the timeline through January 2023.

Connectivity Blueprint: Discussion was had around this project. The next step is for SDK Communications to conduct community engagement sessions. SDK will host a conversation in July with the Tech Committee and other interested WIB members. Further information will be shared on digital equity.

Hack the Gap: Leveling Up

Karanja shared the work happening at Hack the Gap to increase the knowledge of technology for women. Leveling Up is an opportunity to provide tech career readiness. Career readiness includes connecting with mentors, coaching by others in the tech industry, developing skills for time and project management, gaining experience in digital communication, etc.

IT Career Lab Training Program

Weaver, Program Manager at IT Career Labs, gave an overview on the multi-certification curriculum they provide. IT Career Labs is a division of National Able in helping employers and job seekers in technology. The IT certification program is a low-to-no cost ten-week accelerated training program on computer networking and Microsoft 365 systems.

Other and Committee Member Updates

Becker shared the Wall Street Journal article, “Blue-Collar Workers Make the Leap to Tech Jobs, No College Degree Necessary.” Discussion was had around workers not needing a college degree to get into tech jobs. This will be discussed further at an upcoming meeting.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, meeting was adjourned at 1:54pm.
Next Meeting: Thursday, July 14, 2022, 1:00-2:00pm