

Council for Labor and Economic Growth
Quarterly Meeting
Lansing Community College West Campus, MTEC- Conference Center
Monday, March 7, 2005
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Derick Adams | Norma Hagenow | Richard Pappas |
| Jaye Balthazar | Doyle Hayes | Sharon Parks |
| E. Sharon Banks | George Heartwell | Sharon Peters |
| Michele Barney | Thomas Hickner | Eugene Pierce |
| Lloyd Bingman, Ph. D. | David Hollister | Hubert Price Jr. |
| David Binkley | Win Irwin | Trenda Rusher |
| Theodore Blashak | Eleanor Josaitis | Michael Schmidt |
| Thomas Boensch | Janet Joseph | Patricia Shimmens |
| Antoon Brusselmans | Mitzi King | Kester So |
| Matthew Brynildson | Jack Litzenberg | Mary Thornton |
| Patrick Cannon | Frank Lopez | Mitch Tomlinson |
| Enrique Carrillo | Alan Low | Marianne Udow |
| Matthew Chambers | Kenneth Meshigaud | John Van Wyck |
| Richard Dandurand | Juan Mestas | John Voorhorst |
| Bradley Dyer | Myra Moreland | Sharon Wenzl |
| David Eisler | Janet Olszewski | Benjie Williams |
| Christopher Fitch | William Orabone | Michael Zelle |

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Sharon Wenzl, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Ms. Wenzl welcomed the Council members to the meeting, and congratulated Lansing Community College on the construction of the MTEC. Ms. Wenzl also welcomed Governor Jennifer Granholm, and introduced David Hollister, Director of the Department of Labor and Economic Growth, and Mitch Tomlinson, Vice-Chair of the Council for Labor and Economic Growth (CLEG). Ms. Wenzl talked about the reasons for being a member of the CLEG, and mentioned Max Fisher, who had recently passed away, and how he set an example to others on giving back to society and improving the quality of life for communities. Mr. Fisher also had a gift for pulling together the right people to get things accomplished.

II. CHARGE TO THE COUNCIL

Governor Granholm spoke to the members about the charge of the Council, and how they will serve as leaders in workforce development in the state. The State of Michigan needs a seamless and effective workforce development system. The Governor mentioned the breakfast meeting held with the Michigan Works! Partners just prior to the CLEG meeting, and stated the Michigan Works! Agencies (MWAs) face many challenges.

The Governor talked about the role of community colleges in the workforce investment system, and the training that can be provided to match workers with jobs. The MI Opportunity

Partnership starts now, and the Council will help make it happen. The Council is key to the success of the goal of placing 30,000 workers in jobs, contacting 35,000 employers to identify jobs, and working with the Regional Skills Alliances (RSAs) to coordinate vacancies. Work will be done in the K-12 system to better prepare young adults for employment. The three “Rs” will become rigger, relevance, and relationships. Michigan will push forward a high standard in its education system.

The Governor continued her discussion by talking about eliminating barriers to employment, and how credit amnesty will be one way to encourage individuals to pursue college degrees. Governor Granholm then thanked the MWA directors, and commented that they will need help to accomplish the goals of placing individuals into employment and to change the employment landscape in Michigan. The Governor also thanked the Council members, and stated they were chosen because they are leaders. She also thanked Jack Litzenberg for funds to start the RSAs.

Governor Granholm took questions and comments. Sharon Peters, CLEG member, expressed concern about hard to place youth. The Governor mentioned the use of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to help with literacy issues, and talked about funds available to train for health careers through the Department of Community Health (DCH). The Governor recognized Janet Olszewski, the Director for DCH.

Mike Zelley, CLEG member, identified the MWAs as partners, and encouraged the use of the Michigan Works! system, and indicated that it is also for the general public and universal population. Mr. Zelley suggested there should be a huge outreach to community colleges to make training relevant to placing individuals in jobs, including ex-felons and people with disabilities.

Additional comments were made concerning problems with funding emerging technologies and funding for literacy.

The Governor continued the discussion talking about teamwork, her vision of Michigan as a world class state, and the role of Council members as change agents. The Governor also mentioned that Site Selection magazine listed Michigan as second in the country for corporate expansions.

Sharon Wenzl thanked Governor Granholm. Introductions of the Council members follows.

III. COUNCIL FOR LABOR AND ECONOMIC GROWTH MISSION

Director Hollister commented on the introductions of the Council members, and the broad representation of the group. He attended the Manufacturers Summit, and talked about the challenges that the Summit brought out, and how there must be a strategy to address them. Several goals that were brought out to help businesses in our state included the restructuring of the Single Business Tax, streamlining business permits in the state, and workforce development. Workforce development is the biggest challenge. The CLEG was formed to address the challenge of workforce development, and RSAs were launched as part of the strategy. The CLEG will be a policy group, and will focus on the Jobs Today, Jobs Tomorrow strategy. Director Hollister stated the CLEG was a proactive, nimble, strategic group.

IV. ROLE OF THE COUNCIL: MEMBER DIALOGUE

Sharon Wenzl, Director Hollister, and Mitch Tomlinson facilitated an open dialogue with the Council regarding the role of CLEG.

Much open dialogue ensued, including:

- Addressing the heavy manufacturing in the state. Ms. Wenzl indicated that while an issue, this should not be the only focus of the group.
- Attracting and retaining industry
- Nontraditional jobs;
- Federal funds available for training;
- Industries and sectors that will help the state retain jobs and employees;
- Funding for emerging technologies.
- Entrepreneurship
- Knowledge on pensions and health benefits;

The question was asked would there be an opportunity for real innovation with this Council, dispelling the old state bureaucracy image? Council members concurred that CLEG is about producing outcomes.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LT. GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. Chuck Wilbur, Deputy for Policy and Planning, Governor's Office, stated there were a few Cherry Commission alumni in the room. Mr. Wilbur talked about the process the Commission used to develop their recommendations, how four areas of focus became subgroups, and the challenges facing the group. He outlined several recommendations from the subgroups, which included: new high school standards, a change in high school assessments, a new strategy for high school success to be ready for new standards, professional development for educators, dual enrollment of HS students in community colleges, expanding availability of BA degrees, and easier transfer of college credits. College completion is a focus, with an outreach to adults to complete degrees, and finding mechanisms to create degrees to fill jobs in an area.

The recommendations of the Commission aligns with the Governor's Jobs Today, Job's Tomorrow initiative by focusing on giving children in school and adults in the workforce the education and skills they need to fill both jobs today, and jobs of the future.

Discussion after Mr. Wilbur's presentation included: comments on the new Merit Scholarship; incentives for program and degree completion; rigorous standards; a merit scholarship for working adults; and incentives for businesses to allow time off for school.

VI. GREETINGS FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION, REGION V

Lynn Bajorek, Workforce Development Specialist from the U.S. Department of Labor, Region V, explained her role to the Council members as a federal partner, and stated that Michigan is ahead of most other states as far as workforce development. She then read a letter from Byron

Zuidema, Regional Administrator – U.S DOL, Region V, congratulating the Council on their creation and first meeting.

VII. JOBS TODAY, JOBS TOMORROW

Sharon Wenzl provided opening comments for presentations on initiatives the State has already undertaken that align with the Governor’s “Michigan: Job’s Today - Job’s Tomorrow.”

VII. i. 21st CENTURY JOBS/ JOBS TODAY INITIATIVES

Director Hollister provided a brief overview of Jobs Today, Jobs Tomorrow. Key components of the initiative include creating jobs by speeding up state and local construction and infrastructure projects that were scheduled to begin in the future, giving children in school and adults in the workforce the education and skills they need to fill both jobs of today and jobs of the future, and investing \$2 billion in a bond proposal to create 72,000 new economy jobs and establish Michigan as a global center of research in new technology and emerging industries.

Maura Campbell, Director of Marketing and Communications, DLEG, provided a brief overview of the Cool Cities webpage, including a survey on the website, and the targeted population of the survey. In addition, Ms. Campbell talked about the power on internships, and showed the website to launch Michigan internships. The webpage provides links to 400 businesses that offer internships.

VII. ii. MI OPPORTUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Janet Howard, Deputy Director, Bureau of Workforce Programs, DLEG, provided information on the MI Opportunity Partnership. This new partnership will match 30,000 individuals who are looking for work with the training needed to step into vacancies that already exist in the state. The MI Opportunity is a public and private partnership, which is employer lead and regional based, with three-year goals.

VII. iii. REGIONAL SKILLS ALLIANCES

Mr. Jack Litzenburg, CLEG member, reported on the RSAs. Mr Litzenberg stated that the RSAs are demand-driven, and seen as a process, more than a program. He also talked about the value of training employees and what it means to employers. The benefits of the RSAs are satisfied employers and workers who retain jobs.

VII. iv. MICHIGAN’S HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE

Ms. Norma Hagenow, CLEG member, talked about Michigan’s healthcare workforce. Not only are there severe shortages in healthcare, but turnover at the entry level is a big issue. Creating sustainable careers is the goal of Flint Healthcare Employment committee.

VII. v. WORKFORCE ACTION NETWORK

Ms. Marianne Udow, Director of the Department of Human Services and CLEG member, talked about the Workforce Action Network. The committee focuses on issues that relate to the

population that is in poverty. Ms. Udow explained there is a need for fundamental change in the Work First Program, and the change will focus on permanent labor force attachment for Work First participants, not just putting people in jobs. Within the next 30 days the committee will make its final recommendations.

VIII. CLEG ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE/ ISSUES CLEG CAN TACKLE: MEMBER DIALOGUE

Mr. Mitch Tomlinson, CLEG Vice-Chair, reviewed the proposed operating structure of the CLEG. Mr. Tomlinson talked about the reasons CLEG members were chosen to be on the Council, to provide the Governor and Director Hollister strategies to address Michigan's workforce challenges. Information on how subcommittees will be formed was provided when the organizational chart was reviewed. Mr. Tomlinson stated that the presentations showed that some of the work of the subcommittees would be focusing on had already started.

The CLEG support staff was introduced by Mr. Tomlinson. Ms. Marcia Black-Watson, lead support staff for the Council, was introduced, as well as Alisande Henry, Renita Phillips, Christopher Rosborough, and Sue Ann Searles.

The Council members then participated in a group exercise to prioritize a list of issues and trends, provided as examples of topics the Council could tackle. The results of this exercise will be used to establish the Council's committees. Several groups reported out, with the following as priorities: increasing Michigan's global competitiveness; tackling major workforce issues; and creating a culture of entrepreneurship. A comment was made that the cost of doing business in Michigan was not listed, as well as early childhood education.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT/CLOSING REMARKS

Sharon Wenzl offered the opportunity for public comment. Ms. Julia Thomas, Michigan Department of Community Health, Office of Services to the Aging, stated that her office administers programs serving older workers. In addition, her office can provide support to employers in handling employees who are dealing with aging parents. Ms. Thomas stated that her office is eager and willing to work with the Council to represent older individuals.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ms. Wenzl adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, the information in these minutes will be made in alternative format (large type, audio tape, etc.) upon request.

Approved May 23, 2005

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