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**Governor’s Workforce Development Board &**

**Minnesota P20 Education Partnership:**

**Alignment Summit Notes**

**Thursday, July 15, 2021 – 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.**

**Videoconference via Zoom**

**ATTENDEES:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Carol | Anderson |
| Ben | Baglio |
| Shirley | Barnes |
| Mary | Barrie |
| Kristin | Batson |
| Rita | Beatty |
| Carrie | Bendix |
| Tammy | Biery |
| Bob  | Blake |
| Dr. Vance | Boelter |
| Tammy | Bohlke |
| Deven | Bowdry |
| Dr. Jeffery | Boyd |
| Deb  | Broberg |
| Lisa | Burton |
| Scott | Croonquist |
| E.J.  | Daigle |
| Julie | Dincau |
| Jason | Duininck |
| Jeremiah  | Ellis |
| Jennifer | Espinosa |
| Andrea | Ferstan |
| Nancy | Floyd |
| Elizabeth | Fontaine |
| Stephanie | Graff |
| Anisa | Hajimumin |
| Rep. Barb | Haley |
| Brad | Hasskamp |
| Wendy | Hatch |
| Sam | Heimlich |
| Sen. John | Hoffman |
| Keith  | Hovis |
| Dr. Nerita  | Hughes |
| Bob  | Indihar |
| Mark | Jacobs |
| Ralph | Jacobson |
| Jeralyn  | Jargo |
| Michelle | Kamenov |
| Kay  | Kammen |
| Anne | Kilzer |
| Amanda | Koonjbeharry |
| Jennifer | Kunze |
| Vicki | Leaderbrand |
| Mary Beth | Lakin |
| Lance G.  | Louis |
| Marc | Majors |
| Robert B.  | McMaster |
| Chris | McVey |
| Katie | Misukanis |
| Loren | Nelson |
| Sen. Carla | Nelson |
| Bill | Nelson |
| Eric | Nesheim |
| Jess | Niebuhr |
| Annette | Parker |
| Scott | Parker |
| Christen | Pentek |
| Kate  | Perushek |
| Dr. Robert Jon | Peterson |
| Ekta | Prakash |
| Dr. Paul | Pribbenow |
| Jeffrey | Rainey |
| Maureen | Ramirez |
| Greg | Rathert |
| Leah | Reiss |
| Sally | Reynolds |
| Steve | Rogness |
| Laura | Sayles |
| R. | Smith |
| Gina | Sobania |
| Dan | Solomon |
| Heather | Starks |
| Bob  | Stine |
| Nicole | Swanson |
| Jennifer | Theisen |
| Lynn | Thompson |
| Trevor | Turner |
| Michelle | Ufford |
| Bradley | Viehs |
| Steve | Voytek |
| Amy | Walstein |
| Hamse | Warfa |
| Annie | Welch |
| Kori | Winker |
| R. | Smith |
| Gina | Sobania |
| Dan | Solomon |
| Heather | Starks |
| Bob  | Stine |
| Nicole | Swanson |
| Jennifer | Theisen |
| Lynn | Thompson |
| Trevor | Turner |
| Michelle | Ufford |
| Bradley | Viehs |
| Steve | Voytek |
| Amy | Walstein |
| Hamse | Warfa |
| Annie | Welch |
| Kori | Winker |

**WELCOME**

The Alignment Summit, a joint effort between the Governor’s Workforce Development Board and the Minnesota P20 Education Partnership, was convened at 1:30 p.m.

Office of Higher Education Deputy Commissioner Winnie Sullivan welcomed everyone to the first-ever summit of its kind. She spoke about the common challenge faced by education and workforce development. “Current systems are not working for all Minnesotans, creating barriers to opportunities. The budget recently passed by the State Legislature and signed by Governor Walz, continues to invest in breaking down these barriers but, there is more work to be done and that’s why we’re here today.” She stressed the importance of partnering together, rather than working in silos, through initiatives like this.

Deputy Commissioner Sullivan offered the following definition of alignment:

***Alignment*** means that agencies, organizations, and programs will:

* Hold similar visions and priorities;
* Seek similar outcomes for individuals;
* Communicate and connect regularly;
* Plan collaboratively;
* Make investments in these shared outcomes; and
* Have shared accountability.

She concluded by saying, “By ensuring alignment in education and work, we will be able to meet workforce demand, both current and future, and meet the needs of our citizens to be well educated.” She thanked the attendees on behalf of OHE Commissioner Dennis Olson and introduced Commissioner Steve Grove of the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED).

He said groups such as the P20 Partnership and the GWDB are needed to counteract the economic impact of the past 18 months that we’ve experienced in Minnesota and our entire country. He also thanked attendees for their public service on behalf of Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan.

**INTRODUCTION AND SUMMIT GOALS**

Commissioner Grove introduced the Chair of the GWDB, Laura Beeth, who said today’s gathering is the result of recommendations made by the NGA-Strada “Educate for Opportunity” interagency working-group.

She then turned to the outgoing Chair of the P20 Partnership, Ron Anderson, Senior Vice Chancellor at Minnesota State. Goals of the Summit, he said, are to identify barriers and opportunities and determine how we can collectively continue to work together.

**SHOWCASE 1: PROMISING PRACTICES FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY**

Loren Shimanek, Senior Policy Analyst with the National Governors Association (NGA), gave an overview and history of the organization’s work and its role in supporting Governors and States, highlighting Minnesota’s participation in the NGA’s work. He then introduced panelists who shared promising practices from their states:

* *Marie Bruin*, Washington State Board for Community & Technical Colleges;
* *Michael Vente*, Colorado Office of Higher Education;
* *Jean Dougherty*, Colorado Workforce Development Council & CO Office of Higher Ed.

A collaborative discussion on Barriers followed their presentations.

**SHOWCASE 2: MEETING INDUSTRY DEMANDS THROUGH EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

Office of Higher Education Assistant Commissioner Wendy Robinson served as moderator for a panel discussion with the following:

* *President Annette Parker*, South Central College;
* *President Paul Pribbenow*, Augsburg University;
* *Dean E.J. Daigle*, Dunwoody College of Technology;
* *Leslie Wojtowicz*, Central Minnesota Jobs & Training Services (CMJTS);

**SHOWCASE 3: QUALITY, INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIALS**

Rachel Vilsack, Senior Fellow at the National Skills Coalition,presented on quality and industry-recognized credentials, and work that state workforce and education systems can do to better meet the needs of students, workers, and industry.”

**Closing Remarks**

Chair Beeth thanked the presenters for their contributions to the Summit, as well as the attendees for their thoughtful questions and breakout conversations.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

*The next meeting of the Governor’s Workforce Development Board is scheduled for* ***10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon on Wednesday, Sept. 15*** *via Zoom.*