

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Julia Lynn at 8:40 a.m. on Thursday, March 05, 2015, 548-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Jim Denning – Excused

Committee staff present:

Reed Holwegner, Legislative Research Department

Debbie Bartuccio, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Edward Penner, Legislative Research Department

Chuck Reimer, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Michael Copeland, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Commerce

Mike Beene, Secretary, Director of Employment Services, Kansas Department of Commerce

Zoe Thompson, Director, Workforce Training and Education, Kansas Department of Commerce and Kansas Board of Regents

Scott Anglemeyer, Executive Director of Workforce Partnership, Kansas City, Kansas

Keith Lawing, President and CEO, Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas

David Brennan, Director, Heartland Works, Inc.

Leanne Kehres, Executive Director, Southeast KANSASWORKS, Inc.

Deb Scheibler, Executive Director, Kansas WorkforceONE, Western Kansas

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Presentation on:

Chairperson Lynn recognized Michael Copeland, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Commerce, who coordinated a schedule of presenters to provide information on workforce development in Kansas.

Mike Beene, Secretary, Director of Employment Services, Kansas Department of Commerce, presented information concerning what to expect due to the passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which was signed into law on July 22, 2014. ([Attachment 1](#)) He indicated WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy. He reported Congress passed the Act by a wide bipartisan majority; and it is the first legislative reform in 15 years of the public workforce system. WIOA brings together, in strategic coordination, the core programs of Federal investment in skill development:

- Employment and training services for adults, dislocated workers, and youth and Labor-exchange employment services administered by the Department of Commerce through formula grants.

- Adult education and literacy programs and Vocational Rehabilitation state grant programs that assist individuals with disabilities in obtaining employment.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Zoe Thompson, Director, Workforce Training and Education, presented an overview of the role of the State Workforce Board (The Governor's Board). ([Attachment 2](#))

The following five individuals presented information concerning the regional economic drivers for labor supply and demand in their local areas.

Scott Anglemeyer, Executive Director of Workforce Partnership, Kansas City, Kansas, reported the workforce organization serves Johnson, Leavenworth and Wyandotte counties. ([Attachment 3](#))

Keith Lawing, President and CEO, Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas, reported since the downturn of the economy in 2008 and 2009, the recovery for South Central Kansas has been moving at a slow pace. A chart was provided which summarized job growth in peer regions from surrounding states. He stated the Wichita area is significantly behind all these regions and the nation overall in job growth the past five years. He indicated while general aviation is still struggling, the commercial aviation market is strong. ([Attachment 4](#))

David Brennan, Director, Heartland Works, Inc., reported the organization provides services in seventeen counties of Northeast Kansas, including the management of Workforce Centers in Junction City, Lawrence, Manhattan and Topeka. ([Attachment 5](#))

Leanne Kehres, Executive Director, Southeast KANSASWORKS, Inc., reported Local Area V serves seventeen counties, with Workforce Centers located in Emporia, Independence, Pittsburg and an outreach office in Paola. She stated a significant number of layoffs have occurred in the Montgomery County area from the employers Amazon, Southwire and John Deere. ([Attachment 6](#))

Deb Scheibler, Executive Director, Kansas WorkforceONE, provided information concerning job centers in Local Area I. ([Attachment 7](#))

Zoe Thompson presented information concerning Workforce AID (Workforce Aligned with Industry Demand). ([Attachment 8](#))

Michael Copeland provided the following three written documents for the Committee to review:

- Alternative Workforce Specialist ([Attachment 9](#))
- Disability-Focused Services ([Attachment 10](#))
- Jobs for Veterans State Grant Summary ([Attachment 11](#))

At the conclusion of the question and answer session, Chairperson Lynn adjourned the meeting at 9:30

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Commerce at 8:40 a.m. on Thursday, March 05, 2015, 548-S of the Capitol.

a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2015.