

Senate Commerce Committee

March 5, 2015

David Brennan, Heartland Works, Inc.

Thank you Madam Chair and Committee members. I appreciate the opportunity you have provided us to address the Senate Commerce Committee on workforce development at both the state and local levels.

My name is David Brennan, the Director for Heartland Works, Inc. (HW). HW operates the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and other training grants in Local Area II, the seventeen counties of Northeast Kansas (see attached list). We also manage Workforce Centers in Junction City, Lawrence, Manhattan and Topeka.

Since July 1, 2012, we have trained over 1675 adult individuals across our various funding streams throughout our Local Area at numerous training institutions. The particular training courses vary somewhat, based on current and projected labor market information. During this time period our three largest training programs have been in Commercial Truck Driving, Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) and Registered Nurses (RNs). We have also assisted individuals pursuing careers as Certified Nurse Aides (CNAs), Industrial Machinery Mechanics, Medical Records/Health Information Technicians, Network and Computer Systems Administrators, Occupational Therapy Assistants, Surgical Technicians and Welders.

In addition, there is a youth funding stream through the WIA. HW contracts with eight entities to provide youth services in Local Area II; five school districts (345, 364, 380, 383 and 501), a city/county partnership (Junction City/Geary Co. Health Dept.), an adult education provider (Happy Hearts in Atchison) and a private non-profit (Van Go in Lawrence). In the aforementioned time period our providers have served over 500 unduplicated youth (many participants are served in more than one program year). Youth activities include, but are not limited to: work experience (summer and year round employment, pre-apprenticeship, internships, OJTs), tutoring, GED preparation, supportive services and leadership development.

Full implementation of the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) begins July 1 of this year. There are many changes in the new law, especially regarding the youth program. Four more required youth service elements have been added under WIOA (financial literacy, entrepreneurial training, labor market information with career awareness/counseling/exploration and transition assistance to post-secondary education) in addition to the ten now required under WIA. There is also a mandated increase

in funds expended for out-of-school youth from thirty to seventy-five percent. Due to these changes, we have issued a Request-For-Proposal (RFP) for youth services throughout our seventeen counties. Yesterday we had over forty-five individuals representing nearly twenty-five organizations, attend a pre-bid conference to clarify expectations in order to provide proposals to serve youth under the new guidelines.

Another substantial undertaking in Local Area II is the relocation of the Lawrence Workforce Center (LWC). We have been located at 2540 Iowa in Lawrence for nearly fifteen years. In early December of last year we issued a RFP for space to house the LWC as our lease was due to expire in early 2015. Through the RFP process, space in the new Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center (Peaslee Center), 2920 Haskell, was selected for the new LWC. This new technical training campus will include the Peaslee Center and the USD 497 College and Career Center (CCC). These two buildings will house more than 100,000 square feet of space which will include the LWC. This has been a significant community effort by the Economic Development Corporation of Lawrence and Douglas County, City of Lawrence, the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, Unified School District 497 and local business and industry leaders. We look forward to being a partner in this endeavor with a tentative move in date of mid-to- late April.

These are some of the activities taking place in Local Area II. I will certainly try to answer any questions from the committee.

LOCAL AREA II WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

Name	Organization, City or County	Phone Numbers
Mike Beene -Secretary	Director of Employment Services, KS Dept. of Commerce, Topeka	(620) 704-5091
Smitty Belcher	CEO, P1 Group, Inc., Lawrence	(785) 843-2910
Hugh Carter	Vice Pres. External Affairs, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, Lawrence	(785) 865-4490
John Coen	President/CEO, Ottawa Chamber of Commerce, Ottawa	(785) 242-1000
Neil Fisher -Chair	Vice President, KBS Constructors, Inc., Topeka	(785) 266-4222
Ross Freeman	President, Pioneer Group, Inc., Topeka	(785) 232-1122
John Garretson	Business Manager/Financial Secretary, Local 304 Int'l Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Topeka	(785) 235-2301
Lynne Green	Executive Director, Van Go Mobile Arts, Inc., Lawrence	(785) 842-3797
Matt Hall	Business Representative, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Topeka	(785) 232-3866
Richard Jackson -Vice Chair	Exec. Dir., East Central Kansas Economic Opportunity Corp., Ottawa	(785) 242-7450
Doug Kinsinger	President/CEO, Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce, Topeka	(785) 234-2644
John Masterson	President, Allen County Community College, Iola	(620) 365-5116
Allen Moore	Director of Engineering & Maintenance, PepsiCo/Frito-Lay, Inc., Topeka	(785) 338-9263
Dave Rindom	Vice President Human Resources, MGP Ingredients, Inc., Atchison	(913) 360-5230
David Thompson	Dir. of Community Relations, KS Dept. for Children & Families, Topeka	(785) 296-5686
Elizabeth Van Vleck	Rehab. Services Manager, KS Dept. for Children & Families, Topeka	(785) 296-1348
Gary Vesta	Center Director, Flint Hills Job Corps Center, Manhattan	(785) 537-7222

LOCAL AREA II CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS BOARD

Bob Archer	Commissioner, Shawnee County	(785) 251-4040
Ben Bennett -Chair	Commissioner, Geary County	(785) 238-3912
Robert Boyd -Vice Chair	Commissioner, Riley County	(785) 537-6300
Mike Gaughan	Commissioner, Douglas County	(785) 832-5268
Danae Jueneman	County Clerk, Washington County	(785) 325-2974
Susan Shuster	Register of Deeds, Doniphan County	(785) 985-3932
Larry Wolgast	Mayor, City of Topeka	(785) 368-3895



Heartland Works, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization incorporated in 1984 which acts as the Administrative Entity, Fiscal Agent, Program Operator and One-Stop Operator for WIA funds received in a 17-county area in Northeast Kansas (Kansas Local Area II). Local Area II counties include Atchison, Brown, Clay, Doniphan, Douglas, Franklin, Geary, Jackson, Jefferson, Marshall, Nemaha, Osage, Pottawatomie, Riley, Shawnee, Wabaunsee and Washington.

Heartland Works Administrative Office - David Brennan, Executive Director
5020 SW 28th Street, Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66614, (785) 234-0500

Topeka Workforce Center

1430 SW Topeka Blvd., Topeka, KS 66612, 785-235-JOBS

Lawrence Workforce Center

2540 Iowa Street, Suite R, Lawrence, KS 66046, 785-840-WORK

Manhattan Workforce Center,

205 S. 4th Street, Suite K, Manhattan, KS 66502, 785-539-5691

Junction City Workforce Center

1012 A W. 6th Street, Junction City, KS 66441, 785-762-8870



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