



**PHOENIX BUSINESS AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
BUSINESS AND WORKFORCE ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes**

**November 17, 2022
9:00 a.m.**

Members Present:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Karen Carter | Jesus Love |
| Jeff Clark | Nancy Quinn |
| Kaaren-Lyn Graves | Sam Wolo |

Public Attendees:

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Al Jernigan | Ginger Spencer |
| Hayden Maynard | Ariadna Valentin |
| James Montoya | |

Action items taken are noted in **bold** print.

1. Call to Order / Roll Call:

The Business and Workforce Engagement Committee (BWEC) Chair, Jesus Love, called the November 17, 2022 meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Roll call was completed and a quorum of six members were present.

2. Approval of October 20, 2022 Business and Workforce Engagement Committee Meeting Minutes:

BWEC Member Jeff Clark motioned for approval of the October 20, 2022 Business and Workforce Engagement Committee (BWEC) minutes, BWEC Vice-Chair Kaaren-Lyn Graves seconded.

Karen Carter, Jesus Love, and Sam Wolo voted to approve. No members were opposed.

3. Bagels and Business Event Planning:

BWEC Chair Jesus Love shared that he met with the Maricopa Community Colleges about the potential for partnering to host a Bagels & Business Event, to expand the reach to employers for future events. Currently, a date is being tentatively planned for early 2023. There will be more information at the December 2022 BWEC Meeting.

4. Employer Success Stories:

BWEC Chair Jesus Love shared that how he connects with people is by capturing success stories and testimonials to highlight efforts. He suggested that the BWEC partner with ARIZONA@WORK City of Phoenix to gather testimonials of organizations taking advantage system services to disseminate to a viewing office.

Jesus offered to show a success story video that the Literacy Volunteers of Maricopa County and decide if that is something that the committee wants to work with the ARIZONA@WORK One-Stops and Business Services Team to do something similar.

BWEC Vice-Chair Kaaren-Lyn Graves motioned to gather and curate ARIZONA@WORK City of Phoenix success stories, BWEC Member Karen Carter seconded.

Jeff Clark, Jesus Love, and Sam Wolo voted to approve. No members were opposed.

5. Business Engagement Updates:

ARIZONA@WORK City of Phoenix Acting Business Services Supervisor James Montoya shared information about the October 31, 2022 Mobile Career Unit (MCU) event, a partnership with Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC) and International Refugee Committee (IRC) to identify and assist refugees in finding positions they were qualified for, helping them to prepare for interviews, and setting up interviews. In addition, the IRC provided cultural sensitivity training to hiring managers participating in the MCU event.

BWEC Member Karen Carter asked what the barriers to employment were for refugee candidates with advanced degrees being able to obtain employment. James shared that there are many barriers including language comprehension, lack of confidence, and navigating the hiring process. Karen asked if there was support available to the candidates and James said that the candidates who do not have the recognized certifications were offered Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) services through ARIZONA@WORK. BWEC Chair Jesus Love shared that IRC is the mandated Title II language acquisition provider and support people immigrating to the country in helping them to become proficient in English to support their arrival in the country and translating their skills into a career pathway.

Nancy Quinn joined the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

6. Business and Workforce Engagement Committee Strategic Plan Review:
BWEC Chair Jesus Love shared that none of the strategic plan workgroups were able to meet this month. He encouraged everyone to meet before the December BWEC meeting.

7. Committee Update Report:
BWEC Chair Jesus Love shared they will relate testimonial efforts with the Phoenix Business and Workforce Development (PBWD) Board.

8. Matters for Future Discussion:
ARIZONA@WORK City of Phoenix testimonials

9. Call to the Public/Open Discussion:
None

10. Adjournment:
BWEC Vice-Chair Kaaren-Lyn Graves motioned to adjourn the meeting, BWEC Member Sam Wolo seconded.

Karen Carter, Jeff Clark, Jesus Love, and Nancy Quinn approved the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:44 a.m.