



MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MARICOPA COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
Youth Committee

Thursday, January 4, 2024 – 1:30 p.m.

GoToMeeting: <https://www.gotomeet.me/MaricopaCountyWDB>

Phone: +1 (872) 240-3212; Access Code/Meeting ID: 167-097-701

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**Members Present:** Anne Landers, Joe Veres, Barbara Coakley, Brittany Holmes, Kathryn “Che” Collins, Jason Walker, Jessica Rivera-Garcia, Marie Raymond, Meredith Critchfield, Nancy Stanford, and Tina Drews,  
**(Note: All members present attended via GoTo meeting)**

**Members Absent:** Jessica Putton, Liz Valdez, and Tony Finn

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MEETING

**Call to Order.**

Chairman Joe Veres, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m., and requested roll call.

**Roll Call.**

MCWDB Board Liaison, Deseret Romero took roll. A quorum was present.

**Welcome and Opening Remarks, and Meeting Objectives.**

Meeting Objectives:

- Learn about current and future plans to incorporate STEM learning opportunities from the Maricopa County Superintendent of Schools office and our friends at ASU.
- Learn what Arizona@Work programs and initiatives interface with STEM opportunities.
- Hear from committee members regarding their suggestions for new ideas as we attempt bridge the gap between youth and careers.

Chairman Veres welcomed everyone to the Youth Committee meeting and read the meeting objectives.

**Consent Agenda.**

Meeting Minutes: November 2, 2023

**MOTION:**

Chairman Veres asked for a motion to approve the MCWDB Youth Committee’s consent agenda as presented. Kathryn “Che” Collins made a motion; Brittany Holmes seconded the motion.

Chairman Veres called for an all-in favor vote:

**In Favor:** Joe Veres, Barbara Coakley, Brittany Holmes, Kathryn “Che” Collins, Jason Walker, Marie Raymond, Meredith Critchfield, and Nancy Stanford

**Opposed:** None

**Abstained:** None  
Motion passed.

**Chairman Report.**

Chairman Veres welcomed everyone back from the holidays and shared his appreciation to those attending the meeting.

**Informational/Discussion Only.**

MCWDB Youth Success Story

Workforce Development Division Youth Career Advisor Maria Navarro Chestnut shared with the Committee the provided MCWDB Youth Success Story.

Superintendent of Schools: STEM Outreach Efforts Presentation

Superintendent of Schools, Director of Industry and Education Partnerships Gale Beauchamp provided a presentation on the Superintendent of Schools: STEM Outreach Efforts Presentation. Below are the highlights of Ms. Beauchamp's presentation.

- Maricopa County Superintendent of Schools Overview
- Research Connected to Career Pathways
- Educator Pro Connect (EPC) Platform
  - Data about Educator Pro Connect Platform
  - Matching with Community Partners and Industry Professionals
    - Engagement Examples
  - Initiatives that Connect to EPC
  - Event Impact Data
  - Upcoming Bioscience and Healthcare Career Awareness (6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades) Initiative
- Additional Resources

Chairman Veres thanked Ms. Beauchamp's for her presentation and opened the floor for the Committee comments and questions. The following comments/questions were discussed.

Question/Comments	Response
How did you relay this opportunity to business partners?	Through a previous federal grant in 2014, where they recruited 800 professionals by attending various community events and networking, utilized these connections by placing them into this platform.
What is the typical turnaround time for business to hear back from regarding their applications?	As soon as they register, they are available for the teachers to reach out to them.

ASU STEM Programs

Brittany Holmes, Associate Director, Professional Skills and Workforce Development, Global Outreach and Extended Education, Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering and co-presenters, Adam Henry, Associate Director, Outreach & Recruitment, Office of Academic and Student Affairs, Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering, and Rachna Mathur, Sr. STEM Strategist, ASU Preparatory Academy provided a joint presentation on the ASU STEM Programs.

Arizona State University (ASU)

- Summary of Services
- Multiple Learning Models
- Four Pillars of Prep's STEM Strategy
  - Awareness and Experiences
  - Partnerships ASU & Industry
  - Pathways K-12 to College

- Grants and Funding
- Robotics Initiative (All ASU Campuses)
- Girls Who Code
- STEM and Emerging Technology Microschools
- SEMI.org Collaboration
- Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering
  - EPICS High
  - First Robotics
  - Fulton Summer Academy
- Microelectronics Workforce Development Hub
  - Stackable Microcredentials
  - Stackable Industry Verticals

Chairman Veres thanked Ms. Holmes, M. Henry, and Ms. Mathur for their presentation and opened the floor for Committee comments and questions. The following comments/questions were discussed.

Questions/Comments	Response
Congratulations to ASU on the presented programs. Is there a “safety net” for students who are unable to complete the programs? Assistance for an alternative career path?	Not aware of a program that provides that service; however, there are programs that provide alternative career paths, for example, engineers that may go into a business setting (business sales) rather than a traditional engineering career.

MCWDB Committee Member Forum: Strategies for Connecting Youth to STEM Career Opportunities

Chairman Veres encouraged Committee members to share their thoughts and ideas for Connecting STEM Career Opportunities from an Employer Perspective”. The following comments were discussed.

Questions/Comments
Encourage engagement with CTE Directors for connecting youth to careers. Annual ACTE conference in Prescott this month.
Utilization of WEX (Work Experience) can provide assistance to connecting youth to careers. Maricopa County Workforce Development Division Assistant Director would like to see this program utilized a bit more strategically to expose youth to the in-demand industries.
It is important to streamline the information for teachers, thus not overwhelm them.
Would like to TheMakeltMovement program from Texas for additional thoughts on potentially replicating. Chairman Veres will share with MCWDB staff for distribution to the Committee.

**Call to the Public.**

Chair Veres made a call to the public for comments. No one spoke.

**Adjourn.**

Chairman Veres adjourned the MCWDB Youth Committee meeting at 2:35 pm.

*\*For additional information, contact MCWDB staff at: [MCWDB@maricopa.gov](mailto:MCWDB@maricopa.gov)*