

**PHOENIX BUSINESS AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
INSTILL HOPE STEERING COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**VIRTUAL MEETING  
June 26, 2025  
9:00 a.m.**

**Members Present:**

Christian Bearden  
Ginger Lane  
Jesús Love

Claudia Reilly  
Jason Schaffner  
Dean Scheinert

**Members Absent:**

Suzanna Armijo

**Public Attendees:**

Mark Carlisle  
Diana Figueroa  
Thomas Flynn  
LaSetta Hogans  
Hayden Maynard  
Jovanna Parkhouse

Demitria Robles  
Rebecca Tierney  
Ariadna Valentin  
Laura Whitehead  
Justin West  
Sam Wolo

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

**1) Call to Order / Roll Call:**

The Phoenix Business and Workforce Development Board (Board) Instill Hope Steering Committee (IHSC) Chair Jesús Love called the June 26, 2025, meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Roll call was completed, and there was a quorum of six members.

**2) Approval of the April 16, 2025 IHSC Meeting Minutes:**

**IHSC Vice-Chair Claudia Reilly motioned to approve the April 16, 2025 IHSC Meeting Minutes with the recommended changes, IHSC Member Christian Bearden seconded the motion.**

**Approved: Jesús Love, Ginger Lane, Jason Schaffner and Dean Scheinert**

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

## **Motion passed unanimously**

### **3) Community of Practice Update:**

Board Liaison Hayden Maynard gave an overview of the Phoenix Workforce Coalition – Community of Practice initiative, led by the Board’s Instill Hope Steering Committee and consists of employers, workforce service providers, and education providers. The Community of Practice initiative fulfills the Board’s responsibility as a convener, as outlined in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The Community of Practice aims to enhance workforce development in Phoenix by aligning educational offerings with local employer demands to create a skilled talent pipeline.

The most recent Community of Practice meeting was hosted at South Mountain Library on June 10, 2025. There were 67 attendees across workforce development service providers, education and training providers, and members of the business community. During the meeting, Gordon Innes from Bloomberg shared information about the anticipated impacts of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on the Phoenix workforce. This presentation was followed by three panels, about AI, the semiconductor Industry in Phoenix, and Dislocated Workers and wraparound services. After the panels, attendees self-selected into discussion groups to begin solutioning for the various challenges related to each of the panel topics.

During the AI panel, it was shared that they anticipate AI affecting approximately 230,000 members of the workforce in the Greater Phoenix metro area, with administrative and office support roles likely to be the first impacted by AI technologies. Positions that are not reduced or cut, will require some degree of AI tool collaboration. While discussing AI educational initiatives, it was shared that out of 67 workforce and education providers, only one has explored incorporating AI into their curriculum. A universal Intro to AI half-day course is being developed with local community colleges. The initial targeted audience for this training is workforce training and education providers, who will then impart this knowledge to clients, students, and dislocated workers.

The second panel focused on the semiconductor industry in Phoenix. Employers around Phoenix shared the workforce needs of the semiconductor industry and the need to work together with workforce and training providers to meet those needs. There was a discussion about creating a demystifying toolkit which would compile and develop materials, content, and messaging about the semiconductor industry, the training available to enter into these positions and information about the career pathways in the semiconductor industry. These toolkits would be used by workforce and training providers to effectively and accurately market the pathways available to Phoenix jobseekers.

The final panel focused on dislocated workers and the wraparound services available to employers that are facing layoffs and staff reductions. Considering economic projections about the likelihood of increasing numbers of layoffs, especially in the nonprofit world, the panel included nonprofits that had experienced layoffs and a representative from the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) to share information about the resources available to employers and workers facing layoffs. Solutions that were discussed during the event were to create a shared database and calendar for the workforce provider ecosystem. This would help to map available trainings and partners available to support employers in Phoenix.

IHSC Member Jason Schaffner shared that he was really interested in the AI discussion and the amount of people facing displacement because of AI, but he appreciated the forward thinking of how to retool workers to ensure they are transitioned into new position. He shared he was also surprised that construction firms who were connected to the semiconductor industry were also having trouble attracting jobseekers to complete their work.

**4) Innovation 27 Update:**

ARIZONA@WORK City of Phoenix Performance and Compliance Supervisor Laura Whitehead provided an overview of Innovation 27 (I27), a workforce training and education facility (former Kmart building) under development designed to drive economic revitalization along the Interstate I-17 corridor. Laura shared that the ceremonial groundbreaking was hosted in May 2025. During the event, there was a public announcement that Moon Valley Nurseries were donating \$100,000 in greenery as Innovation 27 is built out. Construction is expected to begin in late-August or September.

**5) North Job Center Update**

Board Executive Director LaSetta Hogans shared a brief update regarding the status of the ARIZONA@WORK City of Phoenix North Job Center. She reiterated that on March 27, 2025 the Board approved the IHSC recommendation to close the North Job Center by June 30, 2025. She shared that ARIZONA@WORK City of Phoenix Business and Workforce Program Manager Deb Furlong has been working to coordinate with the One-Stop Operator and the Title IB Adult and Dislocated Worker staff transitioned out of the North Job Center. She shared that a letter was shared with DES that the job center would be closed as an effective June 30, 2025. DES has made a request to keep the site open as an affiliate site, as they have staff housed at North Job Center and to serve the community with. The next steps are that incoming Board Chair Patrick Fitzhugh and Board staff will meet with DES to discuss the possibility of the North Job Center becoming an ARIZONA@WORK City of Phoenix affiliate site.

IHSC Member Dean Scheinert asked if the request from DES will postpone the closure date of the North Job Center. LaSetta shared that it would cease to be a comprehensive Job Center on July 1, 2025, if DES continued to operate the location, it would be an affiliate site. Dean asked what the cost would be for the Board if it operates as an affiliate site. LaSetta shared there would be no cost to the Board. She did share that staff will ensure if it remains open as an ARIZONA@WORK City of Phoenix affiliate site, that there is messaging about other services offered outside of the North Job Center and that the site adheres to all Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act requirements.

**6) Future Agenda Items:**

- Construction Worker Shortage – Possible future site
- How to market positions effectively to workers in Phoenix – Blue Collar Creative
- Community of Practice recommendations
- Innovation 27

**7) Call to the Public/Open Discussion:**

- Outreach to the Board regarding meeting times and subcommittee preferences
- Chair Jesus Love and Vice-Chair Claudia Reilly encouraged members to consider leadership position.

**8) Adjournment:**

IHSC Chair Jesús Love adjourned the meeting at **9:42 a.m.**