



MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
MARICOPA COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD YOUTH COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 13, 2026 – 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Members Present:

Anne Landers, Barbara Coakley, Brittany Holmes, Eric Cultum, Che Collins, JakinDee Kosaka, Jessica Ruiz, Marie Raymond, Robert Garcia, Yvonnda Shelton

Members Absent:

Anna Yap, Danielle Lertique, Dr. Meredith Critchfield, Jessica Rivera-Garcia, Tina Drews

Call to Order.

Chair Anne Landers called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. and requested roll call.

Roll Call.

Roll call was conducted by Management Analyst, Madison Ginsberg. Quorum was confirmed.

Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Meeting Objectives.

Chair Landers welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the objectives and goals for the committee. Chair Landers introduced the new board members, Eric Cultum, Yvonnda Shelton, and Tiffany Bellows. Eric Cultum and Yvonnda Shelton briefly introduced themselves.

Consent Agenda.

Meeting Minutes: September 11, 2025

Meeting Minutes: December 11, 2025

Chair Landers asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Robert Garcia moved to approve the consent agenda. Che Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Information/Discussion Only.

MCWDB Youth Success Story

Workforce Development Program Supervisor, Zach Lynch, presented a success story.

Jobs for Arizona's Graduates (JAG)

Marjorie DeRubeis, President and CEO of JAG, and Trinetta Lipsey, Director of Programs and Training, shared updates on JAG and the way the organization is equipping students to overcome challenges and achieve long-term success.

JAG prepares students for career, education, military, and life success through a student-centered, evidence-based program embedded in schools statewide. The program is offered as an elective course taught by certified teachers selected by school districts, with schools identifying students who need additional academic or personal support. JAG provides personalized career and graduation planning, mentorship, and real-world learning experiences aligned with workforce needs.

JAG students develop leadership, teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and adaptability skills through project-based learning, employer engagement, internships, job shadowing, and postsecondary exposure. The program reports a 99% graduation rate for participants, compared to Arizona's 77% statewide average, along with higher employment and postsecondary enrollment outcomes. JAG's model supports students from middle school through one year after graduation to ensure successful placement in employment, education, or military service. The organization operates under three core pillars: employer and community engagement, project-based learning, and trauma-informed student support.

A highlighted success story was the JAG program at Gila Bend High School, supported by SRP, which has earned national recognition, improved school performance, and helped shift the community culture toward college and career readiness. JAG Arizona students have also achieved national leadership positions and top placements at the National Career Development Conference. Presenters emphasized JAG's role in strengthening Arizona's workforce pipeline through strong employer partnerships, alumni engagement, and continued collaboration to connect education with economic opportunity.

3DE Instructional Model

Chair Anne Landers, Chief Operating Officer of Junior Achievement of Arizona, shared an overview of the 3DE Instructional Model.

3DE integrates business and industry partnerships, education, and Junior Achievement programming into a real-world, case-based learning model designed to increase student engagement, relevance of coursework, and workforce readiness. The model is currently implemented in over 80 comprehensive public high schools across 15 states and has demonstrated strong outcomes, including increased graduation rates, higher postsecondary enrollment, reduced absenteeism, improved academic performance, and full mastery of six core competencies.

In Arizona, 3DE launched at Alhambra High School and Cesar Chavez High School within the Phoenix Union High School District. Plans are in place to expand to at least 10 high schools statewide within five years, with a focus on Maricopa County and potential future expansion into rural communities.

The instructional model centers on interdisciplinary, real-world case challenges developed with Arizona-based employers such as HonorHealth, Deloitte, and Arby's. Students work in teams across subjects like English, math, and science to solve authentic business and community problems, receive coaching from industry professionals, and present solutions at culminating events. This approach builds skills in critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and problem-solving while increasing student confidence and engagement. Additional benefits noted include improved student sense of belonging, stronger belief in future career possibilities, and higher teacher retention due to increased job satisfaction and purpose.

Call to Public.

Chair Landers called for public comment. No public comments were made.

Adjourn.

Chair Landers asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Eric Cultum moved to adjourn. Che Collins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.
