

INSTITUTIONAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2020
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM

Northwest Campus
13201 W Grand Ave
Surprise, AZ 85374

West-MEC's Institutional Advisory Commission serves as a valued, consultative committee to ensure the district's continual strive to meet the educational and talent pipeline needs of the community.

Facilitators:

Stephen Weltsch, Assistant
Superintendent

Katie Mehin, Director of Career
Services

Preparing Students Today for Tomorrow's Careers

Empower all students to participate fully in the economy by providing and enhancing Career and Technical Education

AGENDA (60 minutes)

Community & Industry Representatives: Dr. Lara Ferry, ASU; Kevin Dumcum, Arizona @ Work; Mayor Tom Schoaf, City of Litchfield

West-MEC Attendees: Greg Donovan, Jack Erb, Stephen Weltsch, John Mulcahy, Spencer Isom, Chris Cook, Katie Mehin, Lizeth Fils-Aime, Holly Medina and Layne Perales

Our **WHY**

- West-MEC's Mission and Vision

Stephen Weltsch welcomed attendees and facilitated introductions. The meeting opened with a focus on West-MEC's WHY - connecting young people to career pathways by providing learners with the technical and professional skills to achieve economic independence.

Superintendent Donovan provided a district overview which included CTEDs (14) from around the state, member district satellite programs (105) and partner programs (4), and Adult Education opportunities. Commission members were provided with central program enrollment numbers and planned West-MEC central programs for future years. Mr. Donovan emphasized that all programs are aligned with industry certifications. A fact sheet of Adult Education opportunities was shared along with discussion surrounding future program initiatives.

Our **WHAT**

- Student Achievement
- Student Placement

Katie Mehin provided a summary of 2018.19 cohort data highlighting student achievement (completion and certification rates) and post-secondary placement (employment, education and military) data related to the student's field of study.

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All West-MEC central program students complete at least one mock interview where students are scored by business and industry professionals. The interview rubrics were processed with commission members for continued feedback and revisions.

Our **HOW**

- The CTE Delivery Model
- Pursuit of Life Ready Skills & Dispositions
 - *Arizona Career Readiness Credential?*

Stephen presented the CTE Delivery Model, emphasizing students perform more than fifty percent of hands-on instruction. Additionally, students receive leadership and career-based experiences. Dr. Ferry discussed this model being the desired model of all parents and educational agencies; commission members encouraged West-MEC to share this learning model.

Katie inquired as to the Commissions' awareness of the *Arizona Career Readiness Credential*, and input on a possible pilot. Mr. Dumcum is very involved with the effort through Arizona @ Work and assisted with the discussion. All commission members validated the effort, speaking to the importance of professional skills as being the foundation to career success.

- Purposeful Strategic Planning

John Mulcahy provided an overview of West-MEC's strategic plan, including the critical work in each vision element. Commission members were invited to provide feedback on the plan. The district will be concluding the current plan next year and seeking community input on the next strategic plan. Institutional Advisory Commission members were invited to make recommendations on the goals and objectives for the next strategic plan.

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Our **ASK**

- How we define partnerships
 - *A Community Partner embraces the mission and vision of West-MEC and collaborates in multiple ways to propel our students in long-term economic independence.*
- Guidance with current and future programming
 - *Pre-nursing Track(s)?*

Holly Medina processed future secondary programming with commission members, while Lizeth Fils-Aime took input on the adult programming.

- Ways to continue meaningful engagement
- An introduction to West-MEC's Alliance

The Alliance is a 501(c)(3) education foundation dedicated to enriching the CTE experience for students through scholarship. The Alliance is currently seeking additional support for members as they look to build the foundation.

General **FEEDBACK**

- Ensuring programs are providing dual enrollment opportunities that give the right pathway and opportunity for students by building capacity along with ensuring a seamless transition from CTE to college.
- Proposing a model to assist in improving refugee pathway to CTE, language acquisition and higher education.
- Mayor Schoaf, echoed by all Commission members, emphasized the value of professional skills as foundational skills to all career paths. These skills are transportable across life. West-MEC was guided to do more to embed and strengthen this work.
- Adult learners who may be looking to upskill or obtain additional credentials. A focus on curriculum may need to be addressed to fulfill the need of industry demand for adult student employment.

TOUR (30 minutes)

Northwest Campus

- Health Sciences Building