Occupational Forecast Conference  
Tuesday, March 20, 2012  
1:00 p.m.  
Louisiana State Police Training Academy  
7901 Independence Blvd  
Baton Rouge, La 70806

Members of the Council Present:  
Chairman, Eddie Rispone  
Exec. Director Curt Eysink  
Dr. Yu Hsing  
Susana Schowen, designee for Sec. Stephen Moret

Members of the Council Absent:  
Dr. Dave Norris  
Dr. Joe May  
Karen Zoeller  
Louis Reine  
Phala Mire  
Russell Armstrong

Guests in Attendance:  
Charles Moniotte, WIC Chairman  
Latika Bhavadway, Louisiana Workforce Commission  
Raj Jindal – Louisiana Workforce Commission  
Riaz Hedayati, LSU  
Dr. Stephen R. Barnes – LSU, Division of Economic Development  
Sachin Chintawar, Louisiana Workforce Commission  
Scott Burnes, LSU

I. Call to Order  
The meeting was called to order by Eddie Rispone

II. Comments from the Chair  
Eddie Rispone greeted the members in attendance and discussed the items on the agenda.

III. Status on 2020 Industry Forecast  
Dr. Stephen Barnes with LSU’s Division of Economic Development gave a presentation on the 2020 Industry Forecast. He stated that they have worked to create a methodology to develop as accurate a forecast as possible with baseline statistical models developed at LWC using micro-matrix software. This is based on historical data and is done at the regional level for each 3 digit industry. It creates 846 different forecasts.

He discussed the Driver Firms which represent the largest employers in the state in terms of direct employment and total economic impact and the information that they get from them which gives a much better look at what is coming down the road.

During the next two weeks, they will put together historical data with statistical software and will spend a lot of time reviewing industry by industry to get the best combination of statistical fit and relevance to trends. They will revisit
models to get a better baseline trend by considering forward looking information from phone calls made to driver firms and other firms, and individual associations.

IV. Discussion of Star Rating System
Dr. Barnes also discussed new methods for classifying top demand occupations and the star rating system. The current methodology connected to the long-term forecast presents a set of jobs based on total number of jobs available and rate of growth. Dr. Barnes stated that they have held conferences asking for input and feedback and have made several hundred phone calls regarding occupations that will change in the future. They also looked at economic development projects to anticipate big change.

The forecast is mainly used by individuals to identify jobs but a high school student looking at an occupation that only requires 1 year of training may still care about long term forecast for that job. The goal is to display the forecast in a more meaningful way and to prioritize a fairly long list of occupations based on growth. Local (regional) and statewide ratings are important to include so the jobs are also broken up by local determination, the eight regions. This helps determine funding for training. The current list provides minimum education requirements provided next to the occupations.

Dimensions or 4 key drivers that are being included in the forecast are:
- Long term forecast
- Short term forecast
- Current job openings
- Wages

Dr. Barnes asked if anyone thought that they should give more weight to some factors such as current job openings. After looking at what other states are doing, he stated that they saw the importance of including current job openings. He explained that there are different uses for 10 and 2 year forecast and the federal government has established this pattern.

Mr. Rispone gave a summary of the forecasting methods used in the construction industry. He stated that the surveys they use are in real time. Users input every 90 days in order to identify demand and contractors input how many people they are working to get a good picture of the supply and demand of workers. He would like to see other industry associations use similar methods to determine current openings and long term needs.

Mr. Rispone suggested that a 10 point scale be used within each column for the rating system since units of 5 don’t distinguish enough for further detail. He asked for reports based on educational level and also by industry to present at the next WIC meeting. He would like to see top 30 ranked for high school diplomas, postsecondary degrees, and then advanced degree so that we can see where the need for funding is (resource allocation) and to see shortfalls. Educational institutions also need this long term forecast to plan programs and students can see the highest paying jobs for different educational levels. Then he would like to see the top 20 by industry such as health, entertainment, construction, etc. He stressed the importance of these summary reports as well as the full data report.

V. Suggested Items for 2012 Meetings
A special meeting is being planned for April 10th to discuss the industry forecast and the revised 10 point Star rating system since as Ms. Minor pointed out a section of the forecast has to be voted on in May and then in June. Ms. Granier pointed out that the industry forecasts have to be sent out to WIBS before the final numbers are presented to OFC.

VI. Other Business
None.

Adjournment