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Bobby Jindal, Governor
Edward Rispone, Chairman

Workforce Investment Council

**Louisiana Workforce Investment Council
Retreat
Wednesday, September 16, 2009
9:30 a.m.
Capitol Park Welcome Center
Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

Members of the Council Present:

Curt Eysink	Jorge Tarajano
C.A. "Buck" Vandersteen	Julie Cherry
Charles Moniotte	Kathy Bobbs
Clarence Fields	Katrina Thomas
Craig Roussel	Mike Mitterright
Don Trahan	Mike Palamone
Dr. Sally Clausen	Richard Noles
Eddie Rispone	Robert "Wayne" Huckeba
Ginger Laurent	Terry Baugh
Janet Durden	Tim Barfield
Jim Urdiales	Thomas O'Neal
John Young	Whalen Gibbs, <i>designee for Jimmy LeBlanc</i>
Rick Gremillion	

Members of the Council Absent:

Art Farve	Kristy Nichols
Donald Denese	Madhu Beriwal
Dr. James Bulot	Rep. Avon Honey
Jacqueline Beauchamp	Rep. Cameron Henry
Keith Brand	Sen. Neil Riser
Keith Myers	Stephen Moret

LWC Staff Present:

Beverly Joseph
Cynthia Douglas
Johnny Riley
Patricia Lopez-Grainier
Raj Jindal
Tara Lachney
Tia Edwards

Others Present:

Alana Madison – LA House of Representatives
Dr. Lisa Vosper – Board of Regents
Dr. Mike Gargano – Board of Regents
Jason El Koubi – LA Economic Development
Jennifer Pike – Public Affairs Research Council (PAR)
Mary O'Brien – Senate Labor Committee

Call to Order:

Mr. Edward Rispone welcomed everyone attending the retreat and asked them to state their name and stakeholder affiliation.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from the August 18, 2009 meeting were reviewed by the members and approved with no opposition.

Review of “draft” letter to the Postsecondary Education Commission

Review and Discussion of the “draft” letter to the Postsecondary Education Commission-*Christel Slaughter-SSA Consultants*

A review of the draft letter composed by SSA and the WIC was presented to the members for comment. Individual comments from the WIC members were discussed for inclusion in the letter. A few of the suggested comments were:

- ✓ The letter should include comments addressing the underemployed.
- ✓ The letter should show the representation of the WIC to illustrate the business and stakeholder affiliation and commitment of the Council.
- ✓ The letter should be brief, direct and address workforce in the broadest form
- ✓ Dr. Sally Clausen, Board of Regents spoke regarding the letter and also made several suggestions regarding the content of the letter:
 - The various university systems should be considered as “regional research systems” with performance based outcomes. The goal is that the systems will address the specific needs of the regions they are located within.
 - An alignment of 2-year degree programs and associate degree programs within the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS).
 - Doctorial degree programs at the universities aligned with the specific needs of the regions and/or communities they are located within.
 - The flagship institutions should be identified as the institutions with the highest level degrees that will enable these institutions of higher learning to be in direct competition with other institutions throughout the country.
 - The jobs of today should be focused on the supply side being aligned with the demand side and by the type of businesses we want to attract to Louisiana.
 - The focus should be on 0-5 as opposed to K-12. This is because all workers must be able to read, accomplished during 0-5 years. By the time individuals get to K-12, if they are unable to read, we find ourselves immediately in “catch-up” mode.

Additional comments were recorded by SSA to be compiled into the “revised” draft letter. The revised letter will be sent to the members for review by September 23, with follow-up by September 28.

Developing the framework of the Strategic Plan Requirements-*Christel Slaughter-SSA Consultants*

The discussion began with a presentation on the key elements of Act 743 as they relate to the WIC:

- Oversee the federal requirements of the Workforce Investment Act,
- Advise the Governor on employer and workforce needs,
- Develop plan for a more integrated workforce development delivery system, and
- Directing the Occupational Forecasting Conference.

The goal is to develop the basic ideas and recommendations that will be used to develop a comprehensive state plan that offers direction for the provision of services and coordination of resources by the State's workforce development delivery system.

The council members were divided into smaller groups to start the strategic plan discussions. The process focused on strategic goals, objectives, measures, benchmarks and strategies for implementation by the key workforce entities. The three priority areas for discussion were:

- The Demand Side: A credible/robust system that identifies and communicates workforce demand and priority training needs.
- The Supply Side: A flexible/coordinated system of workforce training/education that responds to identified changes in workforce demand and training needs.
- The Business Community Re-engaged in the State's workforce development efforts.

The following are the identified strategic goals, based on the comments received from each of the workgroups:

- ✓ Increase the High School Graduation Rate,
- ✓ Increase the University Graduation Rate,
- ✓ Align Postsecondary Resources with Workforce Needs,
- ✓ Develop a Comprehensive (Demand) System that Credibly Forecasts and Effectively Communicates Workforce Demand and Identifies Priority Workforce Education and Training Needs, and
- ✓ Implement a Comprehensive Accountability System for Workforce Development Results.

The 1st draft of the plan will be presented to the members for review at the October 20, 2009, WIC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.