Louisiana Workforce Investment Council Meeting  
Tuesday, August 17, 2010  
9:30 a.m.  
Louisiana State Police Training Academy  
7901 Independence Blvd  
Baton Rouge, La 70806

Members of the Council Present:
Alden Andre    Charles Moniotte
Terry Baugh    Edward Rispone
Kathy Bobbs    Buck Vandersteen
Keith Brand    Katrina Thomas
Julie Cherry    Don Trahan designee for Supt. Paul
Camille Conaway    Pastorek
John Dedon    Chad Lauga designee for Louis Reine
Curt Eysink    Craig Roussel
Art Favre    Sean Burke designee for Councilman John
John Lefante designee for Rick Gremillion    Young
Sen. Elbert Guillory    Rep. Patricia Smith
Whalen Gibbs designee for Sec. Jimmy    Mike Palamone
Leblanc    Thomas O’Neal
Jimmy Sawtelle designee for Dr. Joe May    James Urdiales
Mike Mitternight
Jason El Koubi designee for Sec. Stephen
Moret

Members of the Council Absent:
Jacqueline Beauchamp    Hilda Curry
Janet Durden
Rep. Cameron Henry
Sec. Ruth Johnson
Ginger Laurent
Keith Myers
Sen. Neil Riser
Jorge Tarajano
Ronald Williams

Guests in Attendance:
Dara Antee    Denise Emmons
Randy Noel    Lynda Evans
Arthur Williams, III    Pete Prados
Perry Kirk    Fredell Butler
John Shorttt    James Owens
Jason Parks    Willie Martin
Rosalyn Cousin    Jerry Passman
Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order by Chairman Edward Rispone at 9:35 a.m. A motion was made to amend the June 29th meeting minutes to correct an error in the attendance and the vote regarding the meat procession industry based certification.

Motion to approve minutes as amended was made by Buck Vandersteen and second by Julie Cherry.

Presentation: Louisiana Resource Center for Educators
Louisiana Resource Center for Educator's executive director Nancy Roberts and director of reform Kathryn Meely presented information on the Center's recently approved Type 1 Charter School in East Baton Rouge Parish. Private industry groups and educators worked together to develop the charter application for the Career Academy. The charter was approved by the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board and will draw students from that parish. The coursework will be based on real world applications to prepare students for careers which are in demand in the greater Baton Rouge area.

Presentation: Louisiana Department of Education
Rene Greer and Chris Myers, State Department of Education

Race to the Top state application: Louisiana is a finalist in the second phase of the $4.5 billion competition by the U.S. Department of Education. 28 school districts and 56 charters committed to the state’s reform agenda and will receive funds if the state wins the award.

Louisiana was a finalist in the first phase, but did not receive the final award. It was determined that changes had to be made to the way the state evaluates its teachers’ performance in the classroom. Legislation was passed in the 2010 Regular Legislative Session to implement “value-added” assessments of teacher performance to the evaluation process. In addition, the state demonstrated other attractive qualities to USDOE, including:

1. Front runner in incentive reform efforts
2. Strong school turn around system (Recovery District)
3. Accountability system results show achievement gap closing in 4th grade reading and 8th grade math
4. Rigorous curriculum standards

Department of Education Reorganization: The department is centering its operation efforts on student achievement and moving from a policy enforcement culture to a being a resource for local districts. The department has identified its critical goals and each leader will be evaluated based upon their areas growth.

Career Diploma: The career diploma is focused on workforce preparatory course work and application, which includes job shadowing and student mentoring.
The Department developed seven (7) courses to give students a realistic background for workplace readiness. More courses are in development to support the rigor of the curriculum. Career track students take the same assessments as students on the college track. Students are also assessed through end of course examinations to determine their proficiency in the industry area they are pursuing.

Presentation: Louisiana Workforce Commission
Patricia Lopez-Granier, Labor Market Information

The Workforce Commission is working in coordination with Louisiana State University and Mississippi State on a grant which focuses on green jobs. In particular, determining the number of green jobs available in the region and developing opportunities for training in the field.

Action Item: Industry Based Certification- Residential Construction
John Shortt, Home Builders Institute, Washington D.C.

The industry based certification application was brought back before the council after questions were raised during its first presentation on June 29th.

Representatives explained that the certification is voluntary and does not compete with any licensing requirements in the state. The curriculum is based on the national industry skills standard and training in the six (6) trades are entry level.

The Home Builders Institute is currently placing certified students from three (3) job corps programs in the state and representatives will provide placement rates to the council.

The assessment is provided online by a registered proctor. The cost of the exam is $19 per student.

Motion to approve the IBC was made by Art Favre. Curt Eysink seconded the motion.

Chairman Rispone requested a vote by raised hands. The final count was 19 yea, 4 nay and 5 abstentions. The motion did not pass.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.