

Economic Recovery Commission
Education Committee
Minutes
November 10, 2009

Commissioners Present

Judith Gethner, Committee Chair
Gino Bonanotte, Committee Member
Ross Glickman, Committee Member
Mohina Ahluwalia, Committee Member
Marty Singer, Committee Member, by phone
Alex Rorke, Commission Co-chair
Gregg Wass, State of Illinois, Chief Information Officer

Support Staff Present

Heidi Biederman, Consultant
Donald Nylin, Consultant
Qian Wang, Researcher

Education Committee Mission

The Committee will examine the structure of the Illinois workforce, current and future employer needs and patterns of job migration in and out of state. Concurrently, the Committee will analyze efforts by Illinois and other states to prepare their work forces for the job markets of tomorrow. Based on its work, the Committee will recommend steps the State should start taking now to have the most capable and competitive workforce in the future.

1 Recap brainstorming from the first meeting

The Chair asked members to keep in mind the work done at the initial meeting as reflected in the minutes.

2. Review Concerns to generate a tentative listing to guide Committee work related to the Committee Mission

The Chair proposed that the Committee generate *Evidence of Success* for the Committee. The evidence proposed and accepted by consensus is:

- A. establish a game plan with priorities
- B. elements of the plan will be actionable and with a time line to have an impact on Illinois economic recovery
- C. impacts on Illinois economic recovery will be categorized as immediate, mid-term, long-range

D. recommendations will reasonably lead to job growth with substantive data to show the connection between recommendations and expected outcomes

e. recommendations may include factors that address much longer term work force development, well beyond the time-frame of this Commission **Secretary notes said, “work product and other things not addressed in our time frame.: Not sure this captured the intent.)**

F. creation of high value jobs is the goal, not just placing people in existing jobs.

3. Review potential research and set priorities for research to be conducted

Qian Wang, Researcher, distributed copies of research she has been doing.

The report gave a profile of the Illinois workforce. A significant factor is that Illinois is ranked 5th in the nation and 2nd in the Great Lakes region in Value Added through manufacturing. 56.2% of the workforce has gained education beyond high school.

Considerable attention was given to community college and business partnerships in Illinois. There are 48 community college in Illinois, divided into 10 regions, “all of which provide instruction and workforce preparation in more than 240 occupational specialties.”

The research stimulated extended discussion of the role of community colleges in responding to identified needs of business and industries in their several regions. Examples with which some members were familiar were shared (Elgin/Oakton/Harper; Menard Correctional Facility; *icStars*. Direct experience of members and the research gave evidence that dialogue between community colleges and local businesses results in curriculum development to serve identified needs.

Apparently some of the Stimulus funding from the Federal government and leadership through DCE (**reference unknown**) has supported efforts.

An extended discussion followed about linkages between community colleges and colleges and universities which lead to both work force training and development of jobs that have not already existed.

Members of the Committee were surprised to learn from Heidi Biederman that while there is a Community College Board (ICCB), the Board of Higher Education (IHBE) develops the budget blueprint for all of higher education. The ICCB submits a budget request to IHBE, and the Board takes action on budget requests in February. The IBHE budget requests are then forwarded to the Governor and General Assembly. Heidi reported that Community Colleges are cash strapped.

Suggested research:

- public/private partnerships for job creation at the university level

- look into models in other states like MA
- K-12 funding disparities in Illinois
 - Per capita spending
 - Cost in and outside the classroom
 - School district structure (why do we have so many superintendents in each district)
 - Compare with other states
- Find contact on board for community colleges
 - See what existing interactions colleges have with local businesses
 - Look into the \$25 per hour technology hire program at U of I

4. Reporting research to Committee members

Qian Wang will send research reports to members as she develops them.

Members with suggested sources of information are requested to send those directly to Qian qian.esng83@gmail.com

5. Next Steps

Alex Rorke suggested that the committee look at a simple timeline:

November	finding our way
December	Digging into it
January	Focusing

Future meetings:

Monday, November 30	2:00-3:30 pm	Urban Retail Properties 900 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 900
Monday, December 14	3:00-4:30 pm	Urban Retail Properties 900 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 900
Monday, December 28	3:00 -4:30 pm	Gino Bonanotte's Office, Motorola 233 N. Michigan Ave., 8 th floor

Donald Nylin, 11 November 2009
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