



**Choose Columbia**  
Columbia Economic Development Corporation

**DRAFT**

**Meeting Notes**  
**COLUMBIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, November 8, 2018**  
**4303 Route 9**  
**Hudson, New York**

A regularly scheduled meeting of Columbia Economic Development Corporation's (CEDC) Workforce Development and Education Committee was held at their offices located at 4303 Route 9, Hudson, NY 12534 on November 8, 2018. **No quorum was attained.** The meeting began at 4:11pm.

| Attendee Name      | Title                           | Status  | Arrived/ Departed |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|---------|-------------------|
| Ruth Adams         | Committee Member                | Excused |                   |
| Russell Bartolotta | Committee Member                | Excused |                   |
| James Calvin       | Committee Member                | Excused |                   |
| Tish Finnegan      | Committee Member                | Present |                   |
| Triona Fritsch     | Committee Member                | Excused |                   |
| Tony Jones         | Committee Member                | Present |                   |
| James Lapenn       | Committee Chair                 | Present |                   |
| John Lee           | Committee Member                | Present |                   |
| Michael Polemis    | Committee Member                | Excused |                   |
| Maria Suttmeier    | Committee Member                | Present |                   |
| F. Michael Tucker  | President/CEO                   | Present |                   |
| Andy Howard        | Counsel                         | Percent |                   |
| Lisa Draushuk      | Administrative Supervisor       | Present |                   |
| Martha Lane        | Business Development Specialist | Present |                   |
| Erin McNary        | Bookkeeper                      | Present |                   |
| Carol Wilber       | Marketing Director              | Present |                   |

**Twin County Recruitment Expo:**

Mr. Tucker reported 50 vendors and 110 job seekers had attended the October 8<sup>th</sup> Twin County Recruitment Expo. He noted the April event had attracted 60 vendors and 250 job seekers. He stated health care, and residential programs made up the major part of the vendors. Mr. Jones noted there were also companies seeking drivers, including Ginsberg's, Herrington's and United Parcel Services. Mr. Tucker stated the Expo would be done again in future. Dr. Suttmeier asked if there was a profile on the job seekers that attended. Mr. Jones stated the attendees consisted mainly of those currently employed, but unlike the first Expo, students were not numerous. An evening or weekend event was discussed. It was noted that overtime would be required for those working the event, making it difficult for several companies.



**CRAFT**

# Choose Columbia

Columbia Economic Development Corporation

## **YES Program:**

Mr. Tucker reminded the attendees, CEDC had contributed \$5,000 earlier in the year to support the YES program. He stated since the graduation of the 2017-2018 class, Ms. McSherry had decided not to continue to do the program. He stated he had emailed her a request to document the program for CEDC.

Dr. Suttmeier stated she had the curriculum, but currently lacked appropriately credentialed staff to continue the program. She stated further teacher credentialing will take place to allow continuation of similar programs. She stated she is also attempting to bring Career and Technical Education to the classroom. She noted this program is recognized by NYS. Dr. Suttmeier suggested CEDC and the Chamber of Commerce could assist in connecting students to businesses. Dr. Suttmeier stated she had been investigating a relationship with SUNY Cobleskill to provide college credits for high school students over and above the number of credits currently allowed by Columbia Greene Community College.

## **Career Jam Update:**

Mr. Tucker stated Ms. Wilber would be giving an overview of the Saratoga BOCES Career Jam in Queensbury held on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ms. Wilber stated the event hosted over 1600 students with 60 businesses attending. The event was a one day career exploration for 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders. She stated the event was well organized with every business involving the students in hands-on activities. She stated several groups of students were staggered throughout the day, allowing a greater number to participate. Mr. Tucker stated each group had 2 hours on site at which point one group left and another entered. He stated Saratoga BOCES offered to assist with the Columbia County event, also assisting with the business buy-in. He noted they had sent all printed materials to him.

Mr. Lee asked what industries were represented at the Queensbury event. Ms. Wilber stated there was not one main industry cluster, but stated she saw architecture and construction businesses, health services, technology businesses as well as government and public administration represented. Mr. Lapenn asked if CEDC had the staffing ability and time to do a similar event. Mr. Tucker stated he continued to speak with Jim Church at Questar III, who preferred to host an event for the three county area. Mr. Jones asked what Questar III would provide. Mr. Tucker stated he would obtain more information. Mr. Tucker expressed his preference for a Columbia County event at Columbia Greene Community College. The attendees discussed location possibilities which included, Columbia Greene Community College, the Columbia County Fairgrounds, and the high school in East Greenbush.

## **2018 Junior Leadership Camp/Internship Program:**

Ms. Wilber reminded the attendees that CEDC had received a \$5,000 grant from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation to fund the expansion of the Junior Leadership program. She noted the



# Choose Columbia

Columbia Economic Development Corporation

**DRAFT**

program had originally been planned as a summer program, but had been rescheduled as an afterschool program to run in October at the Hudson High School. Early commitments had been made by the Hudson City School District and Chatham Central School District. Questar III had contracted to provide curriculum development and classroom instruction. She noted that despite the support and marketing only 5 applications had been received. Feedback from the schools indicated that the reason was previous commitments to afterschool programs, jobs and sports.

Ms. Wilber stated both districts indicated the need for the program, and requested it be offered in 2019 at a time better suited to the student's time restraints. She noted that the Berkshire Taconic Foundation would be meeting in November to consider an extension of the \$5,000 grant to next year. Mr. Jones asked about the new proposed time frame for the program. Ms. Wilber stated the districts had indicated March or early summer would be best, with an internship to follow immediately. Mr. Lapenn noted that his wife who sat on the Berkshire Taconic review committee along with Jeff Hunt of the Chamber of Commerce had both removed themselves from the discussion and the decision of the grant extension.

## **Other Business:**

Mr. Tucker handed out a sheet with the fourth pillar of the CEDC Strategic Plan, Workforce and Education. He reminded the attendees that the Board would be meeting December 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss the plan. He stated the pillars would be kept, but the Workforce and Education would be adjusted. Mr. Jones noted the pillar would remain because it is needed by the county, but caution would be observed regarding objectives and tactics.

With no further business to come before the committee and no public present, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Lisa Draushuk*