



# Choose Columbia

Columbia Economic Development Corporation

**MINUTES**  
**COLUMBIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, April 17, 2018**  
**4303 Route 9**  
**Hudson, New York**

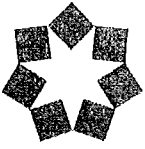
A regularly scheduled meeting of Columbia Economic Development Corporation's (CEDC) Workforce Development and Education Committee was held at their offices located at 4303 Route 9, Hudson, NY 12534 on April 17, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 8:00am by Chair Lapenn.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived/ Departed
Ruth Adams	Committee Member	Present	
Russell Bartolotta	Committee Member	Present	
James Calvin	Committee Member	Present	
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	
James Champion	CEDC Board Member	Present	Arrived at 8:26am
Gary Spielmann	CEDC Board Member	Present	Arrived at 8:20am
F. Michael Tucker	President/CEO	Present	
Andy Howard	Counsel	Percent	
Brandon Dory	Project Manager	Present	
Lisa Drahushuk	Administrative Supervisor	Present	
Martha Lane	Business Development Specialist	Present	
Erin McNary	Bookkeeper	Present	
Ed Stiffler	Economic Developer	Present	
Carol Wilber	Marketing Director	Present	Arrived 8:12am

**Minutes:** *Mr. Calvin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jones to approve the March 8, 2018 minutes as presented. Carried.*

**YES Program – Request for CEDC Grant:**

Mr. Tucker informed the Committee he had met with Tara McSherry the YES program coordinator. He stated the program had been running for 11 plus years and was open to students 14 years and older. He explained the program consisted of 12, 1½ hour long sessions of classwork. Upon completion of



# Choose Columbia

Columbia Economic Development Corporation

the classroom program students were then assigned an internship. After completion of the internship, a stipend was presented to the student. He stated the fallout rate was less than half. He noted the program had 17 students currently enrolled in the program, which had not yet secured funding for the stipends.

Mr. Tucker suggested granting the program \$5,000, to be used for the support of stipends and program delivery depending on the program drop-out rate. He stated the program once formally documented, could be used as the model for other districts to implement. Dr. Suttmeier informed the Committee the program has been funded with a grant, which had diminished yearly to the current amount, which isn't enough to cover stipends. She stated Ms. McSherry had in past sent appeals for contributions or funding, but had not had time this year. She noted the district's general fund had helped fund the program, but is unable to fund the stipends.

Mr. Tucker suggested an application for NYS funding be made, allowing for the documentation of the program. Once the documentation is completed, the program could be duplicated in one or more other school districts. *Mr. Calvin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Adams to approve \$5,000 to be paid to Hudson City School District to be used for YES program stipends. Dr. Suttmeier abstained from the vote due to her position as Superintendent of Hudson City School District. Carried.*

## **Other Business:**

Mr. Tucker stated the Twin County Recruitment Expo would take place later in the day at Columbia Greene Community College. He stated CEDC had worked closely with Maureen Boutin at Workforce NY as well as Columbia Greene Media. He noted 45 vendors had signed up for the event. He informed the Committee, CEDC consultant, Pat Gareau had done all the editorial writing for the newspaper pull-out.

Mr. Tucker stated he had spoken to not-for-profits and for profit businesses regarding potential internships, including; Hudson Development Corporation, Hudson Valley Agribusiness Development Corporation, the Fireman's Home and Hudson Hall. He stated the Committee needed to have additional discussion regarding the Career Jam. He stated he had spoken to Questar who preferred to hold a 3 county event rather than one solely focused on Columbia County.

Ms. Wilber informed the Committee that the grant application submitted to the Berkshire Taconic Foundation for the summer internship program held in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce had not been funded. Mr. Lapenn stated he had heard that the request had been funded. He stated he would work with Ms. Wilber to determine the true outcome.

With no further business to come before the committee and no public present, *Mr. Calvin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jones to adjourn the meeting. Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29am.*

*Respectfully submitted by Lisa Draushuk*