**MINUTES**

**COLUMBIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, November 5, 2020**

**One Hudson City Centre**

**Suite 301**

**Hudson, New York**

A regularly scheduled meeting of Columbia Economic Development Corporation’s (CEDC) Workforce Development and Education Committee was held via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic on November 5, 2020 at 8:30 am.

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| Attendee Name | Title | Status | Arrived/ Departed |
| Ruth Adams | Committee Member | Present via Zoom |  |
| Russell Bartolotta | Committee Member | Excused |  |
| David Fingar | Committee Member | Present via Zoom |  |
| Tish Finnegan | Committee Member | Present via Zoom |  |
| Derek Grout | Committee Member | Excused |  |
| James Lapenn | Committee Chair | Present via Zoom |  |
| John Lee | Committee Member | Present via Zoom |  |
| Carlee Drummer | Board Member | Present Via Zoom |  |
| F. Michael Tucker | President/CEO | Present via Zoom |  |
| Andy Howard | Counsel | Present via Zoom |  |
| Lisa Drahushuk | Administrative Supervisor | Present via Zoom |  |
| Martha Lane | Business Development Specialist | Present via Phone |  |
| Erin McNary | Bookkeeper | Present via Zoom |  |
| Carol Wilber | Marketing Director | Present via Zoom |  |

**Minutes:**

*Mr. Fingar made a motion, seconded by Ms. Adams to approve the minutes from August 6, 2020. Carried.*

**Project Updates:**

**Junior Career Institute:**

Ms. Wilber stated there was a core group of 14 students in the group. She stated she had 17 guest speakers to date and 4 employers had been pre-recorded for classroom instruction. She stated they had completed 3 sessions. She stated November 21st would be the final class as well as graduation. The Micro internships would begin soon after. She stated she would be reaching out to last year’s graduates to begin their internships as well.

Ms. Adams noted during her recent experience with mentoring, she suggested extending access to the mentors for a longer period of time. She felt that would be a substantial value to the students.

**Questar III’s Youth Apprenticeship Program:**

Mr. Tucker stated it has been difficult for them to move the program forward due to Covid. Ms. Wilber stated the hands-on aspect made any progress difficult during this time. She noted the Columbia County businesses participation was minimal, due to the programs not aligning with the programs currently offered at Columbia Greene Community College. Mr. Tucker stated he sees CEDC’s role as a facilitator and bridge between business needs and educational opportunities. He noted there was state funding available. Dr. Drummer stated they were working with Questar III on their building technology program, which wasn’t an exact match to the Questar program. She noted that work would continue once some of the outside issues were resolved. Ms. Drummer reviewed Columbia Greene’s automotive offerings.

**Career Jam:**

Mr. Tucker stated he and Ms. Wilber had had a conversation with the Career Jam team. He stated they were reviewing different platforms for the program. He stated the current focus was on Junior Career Leadership program. He stated the event had been pushed off to 2021.

**Junior Achievement:**

Mr. Tucker stated Junior Achievement tied into the Career Jam because they are now partnering with the Career Jam consultants.

**Arts in Education:**

Mr. Tucker noted this had started with the Thomas Cole House and Olana. He stated PS-21 was exploring a possible arts and culture survey in partnership with CEDC and the Chamber of Commerce. He noted that it may be possible that CEDC has a role in reviving the Columbia County Council on the Arts.

**Coding Initiative:**

Mr. Tucker stated Albany Can Code expressed an interest in working throughout the 8 county area. He noted CEDC had paid the tuition for 2 Hudson City School district students at a cost of $700-$800 each. He noted one completed the program and found a job, the other dropped out of the program. He stated HDC was also interested in exploring the program.

**CGCC-BTCF Education Forum:**

Mr. Tucker stated he feels the program is still on hold. Mr. Lapenn asked if a little more background could be provided on the program. Dr. Drummer stated the Berkshire Taconic Foundation stated this program was the result of the survey done earlier. She stated the Foundation wanted to bring all in the community together in order to determine the needs community wide. She stated Malcolm Gladwell had been identified as the speaker. She stated she would be contacting Peter Taylor in order to obtain a status update.

**Mini Grant Program:**

Mr. Tucker stated as we enter 2021 and we see what the New Initiatives money will be used for, he will bring to the committee, allocations. He stated there were opportunities to partner with others to bring broadband to those students who don’t have broadband and are unable to afford it.

Mr. Tucker acknowledged Carol and Kelly Radzik’s efforts on the Junior Career Institute. He noted a great deal of time and energy had been expended partly due to the need for doing it remotely.

Mr. Tucker stated he, Carol and Martha have been working with several partners, including Questar and Columbia Greene Community College on the possibility of developing a hospitality/tourism training program. He noted this was a result of the City of Hudson IDA’s 620 Hudson House project. He likened it to other micro-certificate programs. He was interested in undertaking a study to determine the skill gaps the businesses are seeking to close. He stated CEDC’s role would be to facilitate the program.

Ms. Lane noted that recruiting for a program would be challenging. She suggested a marketing budget and thinking about how to entice people to sign up for the program, focusing on engagement with the target audience.

Ms. Adams suggested that CEDC run some small business stories about the issues and solutions local businesses are implementing.

With no public present and no further comments, Mr. Lee made a motion, seconded by Ms. Adams, to adjourn the meeting at 9:17am.

*Respectfully submitted by Lisa Drahushuk*