



March 23, 2016

Dear State Workforce Innovation Council members:

In preparation for our upcoming State Workforce Innovation Council (SWIC) meeting, I want to provide an update on SWIC taskforces and committees. I am excited about the direction of our work as it will transform the State of Indiana into a state-of-the-art demand-driven workforce system such that all Hoosiers learn the right skills at the right time and in the right way. Each SWIC member has the opportunity to play an important role in the development of the demand-driven workforce system. I highly encourage you to critically review the work to be done in 2016 and see which one or two taskforces best fit your skills, interests and time.

Currently, there are four taskforces/committees: Career and Technical Schools Accreditation Committee (OCTS), Demand Driven Workforce System Taskforce (DDWS), Youth Committee, and WIOA Implementation Taskforce.

As discussed at the last SWIC meeting, the OCTS Committee will be dissolved due to recent legislation moving these duties from the SWIC to the Department of Workforce Development (DWD). I would like to personally thank Randy Holmes and the members of the OCTS committee who have devoted much time over the years to faithfully execute the duties of this committee.

As to the DDWS Taskforce, we will be proposing at the March 31st SWIC meeting that we break this taskforce into multiple taskforces with clear duties and short timeframes that coincide with DWD's *Engage, Align, Advance* strategic vision. Following is a brief description of each taskforce and its duties:

- Engage Taskforce I
 - Duties: Assist with determining how we gather information from employers and validate occupational and skill demand with employers.
 - Timeframe: April-June, 2016

- Engage Taskforce II
 - Duties: Provide feedback on methodology to link educational programs, certifications and degrees to the specific knowledge, skills and abilities demanded by the labor force. A methodology, put into a replicable framework, will guide educational programs to skill linkages as new programs are developed.
 - Timeframe: June-September, 2016

- Align – Career Counseling – Taskforce
 - Duties: Assist with operationalizing career readiness standards, including marketing needs, outreach and coordination with K-12. Assist with increasing career and technical education (CTE) awareness and growth in relation to the demand perspective.
 - Timeframe: April-September, 2016

- Align – Work-and-Learn Taskforce
 - Duties: Validate through projections data the top 40 careers with little to no talent supply, define a framework for quality work-and-learn experiences, map existing work-and-learn programs and educational constructs to maintain relationships with employers, and determine strategies to engage employers in Governor’s summit in October.
 - Timeframe: May-December, 2016

As to the Youth Committee, it will continue its work of reviewing the youth portions of the Local Plans and with assessing changes to youth funding under WIOA. Additionally, the following taskforce will be created as a subset of the Youth Committee:

- Align – Work Ethic Certificate – Taskforce
 - Duties: This taskforce will assist with developing a framework for a work ethic certificate.
 - Timeframe: April-September, 2016

Lastly, the WIOA Implementation Taskforce will continue through July, 2016. Its primary duty is to provide guidance on aligning the policy and processes of the Eligible Training Provider List with WIOA.

The SWIC will discuss the above changes in more detail at the March 31st meeting. In the meantime, feel free to reach out to myself or Gina Ashley, Executive Director of the SWIC (rashley@dwd.in.gov), with any questions. I look forward to continuing to work with each of you as it will take our collective efforts to ensure that Hoosiers are equipped with the skills necessary to fill the 1 million jobs projected to be available over the next 10 years.

Sincerely,



Paul Perkins
Chair, State Workforce Innovation Council