

STATE APPRENTICESHIP ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mid Florida Technical Center – Orlando, Florida

May 11, 2007

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Members Present: Chairperson, Dr. Bonnie Marmor, Vice Chancellor for the Division of Workforce Education, Donna Beasley, Billy Campbell, Cindy Johnson, Wm. James Nolan, John Spinella, Lori Blake, Jim Pruitt

Members Absent: Al Herndon, Henry Gonzalez

Others Present: Nancy Cordill, Bureau Chief, Career, Technical and Apprenticeship Programs; and Steve Campora, Apprenticeship Program Director.

The meeting of the State Apprenticeship Advisory Council was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

Dr. Bonnie Marmor, Chairperson, introduced the Council members and the Apprenticeship Training Representatives.

The motion was made by Council Member Johnson to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2007 Council Meeting, with corrections made to the minutes to reflect the Palm Coast Joint Training Association, Inc. as the host of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Jerry Thomas.

FOLLOW-UP ITEMS FROM FEBRUARY 23, 2007 COUNCIL MEETING

Legislative Update

The 2007 Legislative Session ended 5/4/2007. Nancy discussed the budget proviso language in Specific Appropriation 125 in the School District Budget: \$2 million from General Revenue Funds is provided for competitive grants to enhance the construction industry in Florida, of which \$200,000 shall be used to give priority to rural communities in which minorities comprise a majority of the population. Funds shall only be used for new or expanded apprenticeship programs to provide more trained workers. The Department of Education shall establish competitive bid criteria and requirements for grant contracts and shall solicit proposals from local educational agencies, construction trade associations, registered apprenticeship organizations, and private postsecondary institutions with demonstrated experience in providing education in the skilled construction trades for the use of these funds. Similar language is in the Community College Budget, Specific Appropriation 129 for \$1 million of which \$100,000 shall be used to give priority to rural communities in which minorities comprise a majority of the population.

Another budget item identified \$125,000 for an apprenticeship-related program for a Florida-based statewide not-for-profit foundation that promotes careers in construction to high school students. Under the Special Categories Economic Development Projects there is \$300,000 for the Office of Apprenticeship, Department of Education Career Training.

The Division of Workforce Education will develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) that will specify eligible applicants; applications will be approved using a competitive bid process. The

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proviso stipulated the funds are for supporting new and expanding apprenticeship programs. The grant period is for FY 2007-08. Dr. Marmor explained how grants specifications are established and how RFPs are reviewed. Steve Campora suggested that partnering with an LEA might be advantageous for apprenticeship sponsors.

Mike Williams, President of the Florida Building Trades, contacted the Governor's office to support and approve the appropriation. Senator Lynn and Representative Pikens made sure the bills got to the Governor's office and encouraged the Apprenticeship community to thank them for their support.

Florida Trends - Dr. Marmor reported on her conversation with Linda Keefer, editor of Florida Trend Magazine, discussing a feature article on apprenticeship; she is scheduled to have another discussion with Ms. Keefer next week. She will need to work with the Public Relations Committee in developing a joint and non-joint article.

Funding Formula – Due to the reorganization within the Workforce Education Division and the legislative session, the Apprenticeship Funding Committee had to be put on hold. Dr. Marmor stated the initial committee will consist of 6-8 people, with equal representation from community colleges and school districts. The committee will eventually include apprenticeship sponsors. Council Member Beasley asked if the meetings will be open to the public. Dr. Marmor responded that the initial meeting would be limited to LEA committee members but subsequent meetings would be open. A suggestion was made by Council Member Blake that it might be productive to have multiple committees, one for community colleges and another for apprenticeship sponsors. Dr. Marmor replied that there would be one small group.

Apprenticeship Database Update – Mr. Campora reported the Database project is in holding pattern due to Marilyn Hatch's illness and budget constraints. The Apprenticeship office will continue to seek other funding sources to support the completion of the project.

APPRENTICESHIP OFFICE UPDATE

DOL Program Approval – The Office of Apprenticeship US Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration conducted a compliance review of the Florida Apprenticeship Office August 24, 2005. The compliance review findings generated the following recommendations:

1. Rules need to be revised to reflect the State Apprenticeship Council (Office of Apprenticeship) transfer from the Department of Labor to the Department of Education;
2. More employer representation on the Council; and
3. More EEO compliance reviews of programs registered.

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Conditional approval was granted in a communication on November 2, 2006, by Tony Swoope of the USDOL with final approval to be granted based on the submission of a corrective work plan. The work plan was submitted to USDOL January 8, 2007. Mr. Campora has checked with his contacts at USDOL to follow up on the approval of the work plan, he has been informed verbally the plan has been approved, but he has not received an official response.

Dr. Marmor requested to have the USDOL review placed on the agenda for the next meeting to give the SAAC a chance to review the report and provide feedback. Hopefully the plan will be approved and presented at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Melton reported there were no negative findings in the review of Florida's apprenticeship program. Council Member Blake asked if the Council was considered a SAC or SAAC. Mr. Melton responded the Florida Council is an Advisory, not a rule-making body.

Apprenticeship Day – Mr. Campora felt the activity was useful, but asked how it might be improved. Council Member Thomas spoke to Senator Lynn and Representative Pickens and received a positive response from those in attendance. A list of legislators or local representatives who are involved with apprenticeship is needed so people know who to contact to get the information concerning Apprenticeship Day to interested parties. Council Member Thomas made a motion to develop a list as discussed and Council Member Blake seconded the motion, the motion was approved.

Electronic signature – Mr. Campora has discussed the use of electronic signatures on official documents with the USDOL. USDOL is willing to accept electronic signatures upon receiving a letter of request from Florida. Mr. Campora is to write a letter requesting the use of electronic signatures, a draft of the letter will be presented at the next Council meeting.

PRESENTATION

Ed Bart, with the Center for Transportation Research, located at the University of South Florida, in Tampa provided a presentation on the activities of the Center. Ed is involved with the Florida Maintenance Training Program, which has been in existence for 17 years; and is operated by the Florida Maintenance Transit Consortium. He addressed the Council regarding his training program for Transit Technicians that is offered state - wide in the area of diesel mechanics, engines and transmissions. The Transit Consortium has identified the need for a certification for transit technicians. After research, they embraced the apprenticeship concept. This was for two reasons: recruitment and retention. They are planning to establish a 4-year registered apprenticeship program, 2000+ hours of OJT, 144+ of related training. Another goal is to establish a pre-apprenticeship program to attract the younger students into the program. Students can articulate into the 4 year apprenticeship program, then an A.S. degree in Industrial Management. Dr. Marmor congratulated Mr. Bart on his vision of apprenticeship.

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NEW BUSINESS

Nancy Cordill provided a tentative agenda for the Florida Association of Career and Technical Education (FACTE) conference, the Florida Apprenticeship Association and the organizations by-laws. The August 1st agenda provides 5 breakout sessions for the Apprenticeship Association to plan, the Florida Apprenticeship Division of FACTE will one or two of these sessions for the first official business meeting.

The need to appoint Apprenticeship Division Executive Board officers and the dues structure was discussed. The Council was in favor of asking for volunteers to fill the board offices. They are as follow: President, Cindy Johnson; President-elect, Bill Howard; Secretary, either Henry Gonzalez or Al Herndon; Treasurer, either Henry Gonzalez or Al Herndon (Henry's choice).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rules Committee – Lori Blake

Committee meeting was held in Ocala, 4/20/2007. The rules were reviewed and revised. The committee is planning to present a draft of the revised rules at the November SAAC meeting.

Public Awareness – Wm. James Nolan

The Public Awareness Committee did not meet. The brochure was discussed as well as an apprenticeship PSA. Council Member Nolan proposing the Governor recognize the month of October as *Florida Registered Apprenticeship Awareness Month*.

Council Member Beasley made the motion to proclaim October as Registered Apprenticeship Awareness Month, by the Governor. Council member Jim Pruitt seconded the motion, the motion was approved. Steve and Nancy will work with Council Member Nolan, Rick Watson and Mike Williams to develop the proclamation and to identify the process for obtaining the Governor's signature.

Program Expansion and Development – John Spinella

No report was presented. The apprenticeship reps were commended for their work in promoting apprenticeship.

COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE

Council Member Johnson would like to see more recognitions during council meetings. Richard Melton announced the July 15th, 70th Anniversary of Apprenticeship Celebration that will be held in Kansas City. Jon Goins announced that Mr. Bill Livingood, former apprenticeship

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training representative of Orlando, was in Hospice care. Mr. Gerald Smitty spoke of Apprenticeship Day and the effectiveness of the registered apprentices who attended. Veteran's Brochures will be on-line the week after next, per Dave Islitzer.

Public Input

The Randall Moody certificate will be issued 6/1/2007. On 5/23 the Orlando Carpenters will have a Grand Opening from 5-6 pm, 4700 Distribution Court, Orlando, Florida.

Council Member Blake asked if the Office of Apprenticeship had looked at other states for a database?

Next meeting to be held 9/21/2007, in Jacksonville.

Motion was made to adjourn meeting, at 11:20 a.m.