

**Governor's State Workforce Development Board  
September 11, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Thomas Freeland\*  
Mr. William Floyd  
Mr. Charles Brave, Jr.  
Mr. Pat Michaels  
Mr. Warren Snead\*

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Dr. Windsor Sherrill  
Mr. John Uprichard

**Welcome and Opening Remarks ..... Mr. Thomas Freeland, SWDB Chair**  
Mr. Thomas Freeland, State Workforce Development Board (SWDB) Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

**Approval of May 29, 2025, Meeting Minutes\* ..... Mr. Freeland**  
Mr. Charles Brave, Jr. motioned to approve the May 29, 2025, meeting minutes. Mr. Pat Micheals seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously approved the meeting minutes.

**PY'25 Funding Update\* ..... Ms. Pamela Jones**  
Ms. Pamela Jones reviewed the status of PY'25 funding activities. She also presented the funding recommendation to reallocate \$6,300 from the SC Works Conference budget to support Workforce Development Month activities, including inviting Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) members to the Workforce Development Symposium.

- *Workforce Development Symposium Sponsorship – \$15,000:* This funding covered the sponsorship costs for the 2025 Workforce Development Symposium, hosted by the SC Chamber of Commerce in partnership with DEW and the State Workforce Development Board.
- *Workforce Heroes and High-Performing Workforce Board Awards – \$1,600:* This funding will cover the costs of trophies and awards for Workforce Heroes and High-Performing Workforce Boards. Awards will be presented during the 2<sup>nd</sup>-quarter full board meeting.
- *LWDA Funding – \$864,000:* Local Workforce Development Areas (LWDA) that received a decrease in Program Year (PY) 2024 funding would be provided a grant in the amount of 75 percent of the loss experienced. These grants have been distributed with a period of performance of one program year.
- *SC Works Security Funding – \$1,000,000:* Funding will be used to deploy security guards at SC Works centers to ensure a safe environment for staff and customers by monitoring activities and intervening to de-escalate volatile situations. After the security policy is developed, the funding will be distributed by prioritizing the areas by need.
- *SC Works Conference – \$150,000:* The SC Works Conference will bring together WIOA programs, SC Works staff, and partners to discuss current and future workforce development challenges and facilitate networking among workforce development leaders and staff across

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our state. Staff continues to explore the best options for the conferences, speaking with other states and partners to learn best practices.

Mr. James Snead motioned to approve reallocating \$6,300 from the funding allocated for the SC Works Conference for Workforce Development Month activities. Mr. Charles Brave, Jr., seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously approved reallocation of \$6,300 from the funding allocated for SC Works Conference for Workforce Development Month activities.

**Committee Updates..... Committee Chairs**

- *Workforce Innovation Committee – Presented by Ms. Jones*  
During the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter Workforce Innovation Committee (WIC) meeting:
  - Ms. Nina Staggers presented an overview of the SC Career Readiness Program and the partnership with WIN Learning. Following the presentation, the Committee discussed broadening the SC Professional Skills Credentials priority to encompass the six (6) credentials offered in the SC Career Readiness Program.
- *Board Development Committee – Pat Michaels*  
During the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter Board Development Committee (BDC) meeting,
  - The committee discussed the scope and success criteria for its PY'25 priorities:
    - i. SWDB and LWDB joint trainings, meetings, and information sessions - LWDB members will continue to be invited to participate in the Annual Ethics Training. Committee members emphasized that joint training and meeting topics should be centered on “big picture” issues affecting SC’s workforce. In upcoming meetings, members will explore surveying LWDB members to identify relevant training topics and meeting topics, as well as the desired frequency of joint meetings.
    - ii. Encouraging SWDB members to engage with their LWDB – SWDB Staff will develop a process to ensure SWDB members are aware of their LWDB meeting and events schedule, including working with local area board directors and administrators to include SWDB members on their meeting invitations.
- *SC Works Management Committee – Warren Snead*  
During the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter SC Works Management Committee (SCWMC) meeting:
  - Mr. Robert Davis, Project Manager in the Office of Statewide Workforce Development, presented a live demo of the Priority Occupations Dashboard, an interactive tool found on the Find Your Future website developed from the Priority Occupations List, that enables individuals to explore exciting opportunities and career pathways statewide or within a specific county.
  - Ms. Pamela Jones reviewed the priorities the Committee will focus on during the first and second quarters of PY'25. Following her update, members engaged in a collaborative discussion about their priority to assist in developing a statewide Employer Needs Survey, which would provide insights into how the SC Works system can enhance its services for employers and give a pulse on the trajectory of the state’s economy. Strategies reviewed

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included factors such as the survey's length and distribution frequency to maximize survey response rates.

**Workforce Development Month.....Ms. Jones**

- Ms. Jones provided an overview of 2025 Workforce Development Month activities, including the Third Annual Workforce Champion Award Ceremony and Reception at the Governor's Mansion and the 2025 Workforce Development Symposium. Mr. Robbie Lahmon, Business Services Manager and a 2024 Workforce Hero, presented a live demo of the Workforce Development Month webpage on the SC Works website, [scworks.org](https://scworks.org), walking through how to locate activities in each local workforce area.

**Other Business/Adjourn.....Mr. Freeland**

- Director William Floyd noted that Workforce Development Month is an opportunity to highlight and amplify the workforce development activities and initiatives that take place at DEW and with workforce development partners year-round.
- Mr. Freeland reminded members and guests that in place of the first-quarter SWDB meeting, everyone is encouraged to attend the 2025 Workforce Development Symposium on September 17, 2025, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. Members were asked to reply to the communication from SWDB Staff or by emailing [swdb@dew.sc.gov](mailto:swdb@dew.sc.gov) to be registered.
- State Workforce Development Board members were invited to the Third Annual Workforce Champion Award and Reception on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at the Governor's Mansion. Members were asked to notify SWDB Staff by emailing [swdb@dew.sc.gov](mailto:swdb@dew.sc.gov), if they did not receive the formal invite or need to confirm their registration.

Meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m.