

**Governor's State Workforce Development Board  
May 7, 2025, Workforce Innovation Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Dr. Windsor Sherrill\*, Chair  
Col. Craig Currey  
Dr. Tim Hardee  
Mr. Jay Holloway  
Ms. Felicia Johnson  
Ms. Elaine Morgan

**Members Absent:**

Ms. Susan H. Cohen  
Mr. George Patrick "GP" McLeer, Jr.  
Mr. Tyler Servant  
Sen. Ross Turner

**Welcome and Opening Remarks .....Dr. Windsor Sherrill, Committee Chair**

Dr. Windsor Sherrill, Workforce Innovation Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. A quorum was present.

**Approval of February 6, 2025, Meeting Minutes\* .....Dr. Sherrill**

Col. Craig Currey motioned to approve the February 6, 2025, meeting minutes. The Committee unanimously approved the meeting minutes.

**Committee Priorities Review .....Mrs. Pamela H. Jones**

Mrs. Pamela Jones reviewed the priorities outlined in the State Workforce Development Board (SWDB) Strategic Plan by program year and provided updates on the progress of each priority.

Workforce Innovation Committee		
Priority	Progress	Planning Year
Explore how to maximize youth employment resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Staff are communicating with Regional Workforce Advisors and community leaders to increase awareness of programs and resources available.</li><li>- Staff will be communicating with the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development on how to maximize their online tool for resources and career pathway information.</li></ul>	2025
Collect and distribute a catalog of promising practices and models for removing obstacles, primarily related to transportation, childcare, and housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Staff are currently researching models for removing barriers to employment that can be easily replicated in other areas.</li></ul>	2025
Funding to implement models for removing barriers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Staff are currently engaging in research and discussions with community leaders and subject matter experts on how funding could be best utilized.</li></ul>	2025

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Priority	Progress	Program Year
Evaluate the need and feasibility of a statewide electric vehicle workforce collaborative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Staff participates in the Southeastern Regional Electric Vehicle Collaborative, where they receive updates that can be shared with the state system.</li> <li>- Staff are collaborating with other state agencies and employers to learn more about the training needed in the infrastructure, energy, and advanced manufacturing sectors.</li> </ul>	2026
Promote the SC Professional Skills Credential, developing attainment goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Staff are working with partners to identify additional locations where the assessment can be provided.</li> </ul>	2026

**EmpowerU: Futures Unlocked Initiative..... Ms. Nina Stagggers**

Ms. Nina Stagggers, Assistant Executive Director for Workforce Development, presented a final report on EmpowerU: Futures Unlocked Career Exploration Pilot, a structured career exploration program that combines classroom instruction with virtual reality technology to prepare incarcerated youth for employment, education, and other opportunities upon release. This program was a collaboration between the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Upstate Workforce Board.

Participants attended various career development workshops and completed an action plan outlining their educational and occupational goals upon release. Fifteen participants out of 31 graduated from the program.

Staff will continue to review these results, implementing the lessons and best practices learned to develop future programs.

**Other Business/Adjourn.....Dr. Sherrill**

Dr. Sherrill reminded Committee members that the next SWDB meeting will be held on Thursday, June 19, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. Members are encouraged to attend in person.

Part one of the SC Works Information Session, titled “Beyond the Record,” is scheduled for Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. This discussion will explore the challenges and opportunities facing justice-involved individuals, as well as the future of South Carolina’s reentry workforce.

Part two of this session will take place on June 10, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. and will feature several successful nonprofit reentry programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.