



**State Workforce Development Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Thomas Freeland
Mr. William Floyd
Mr. Charles Brave, Jr.
Mr. Gregory C. Clark
Ms. Susan Cohen
Col. Craig Currey (retd.)
Mr. Chris Hall
Dr. Tim Hardee
Mr. Jay Holloway
Ms. Lelia King
Mr. Mike King
Ms. Robyn Knox
Mr. George “GP” McLeer, Jr.
Ms. Jennifer Moore
Ms. Elaine Morgan
Mr. Kevin Pak
Mr. Matthew Pollard
Dr. Windsor W. Sherrill
Ms. April Simpkins
Ms. Britt D. Vergnolle

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Warren Snead
Mr. Cliff Bourke, Jr.
Representative Don Chapman
Ms. Nancy Ray Foster
Ms. Darline Graham
Ms. Felicia Johnson
Mr. Tyler Servant
Mr. Michael W. Sexton
Mr. Jeremy Stephens
Mr. Gregory L. Tinnell
Senator Ross Turner
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.

Chairman Freeland welcomed guest speaker Ms. Betsy McWhite from the SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department. He also thanked everyone for participating in the High-Performing Workforce Award Ceremony during the December 11, 2025, SWDB meeting.

Approval of December 11, 2025, Meeting Minutes* Mr. Freeland

Col. Craig Currey, motioned to approve the December 11, 2025, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Charles Brave, Jr., and SWDB unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes.

PY’25 Interim Funding Recommendations* Ms. Pamela Jones

Ms. Pamela Jones presented the interim funding recommendation of \$680,000 for the PY’25.

- *SC Works Continuous Improvement Funding – Technology - \$600,000:* Funding will be made available to Local Workforce Development Areas (LWDAs) for technology enhancements, software, and computer upgrades, prioritized by each area’s specific needs to ensure maximum impact and effectiveness.
- *Statewide Operating Costs – \$20,000:* Increase funding for SWDB and SC Works operating costs by \$20,000 to invest in staff training and professional development, to ensure the delivery of quality workforce services through the SC Works system. Total PY’25 SWDB and SC Works Statewide operating cost will be \$45,000.



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- *SC Works Security Funding – \$60,000:* Increase funding for security at SC Works centers to provide LWDAs with the total amounts requested to meet the requirements outlined in the Physical Security policy. The total PY’25 SC Works Security Funding will be \$1,060,000.

Mr. Gregory Clark, motioned to approve the PY’25 interim funding recommendation of \$680,000. Mr. Charles Brave, Jr., seconded the motion. The State Workforce Development Board unanimously approved the PY’25 interim funding recommendation.

DEW Director’s Report..... Mr. William Floyd

Mr. William Floyd, Executive Director, S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW), presented the state’s employment situation, including current agency initiatives and projects, and an update from the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development (CCWD).

Director Floyd introduced Workforce Pell Grants that will be implemented by July 1, 2026. This is a federal tuition assistance program for short-term workforce training for in-demand, high-wage, or high-skill occupations.

Partner Spotlight.....SC Vocational Rehabilitation

The Partner Spotlight showcases the innovation and accomplishments of partner programs that significantly impact workforce development, enhance collaboration, and raise awareness of partner services. The 3rd quarter partner spotlight was SC Vocational Rehabilitation, presented by Ms. Betsy McWhite, Disability Program Coordinator. Ms. McWhite provided an overview of the services provided for the newly established W.R.I.G.H.T. School for Disability Education and as the Subject Matter Expert for the Policy and Internal Control Unit.

SCWOS Modernization Update Ms. Nina Staggars

The SCWOS Modernization Project, previously known as the Case Management (CM) and Labor Exchange (LX) RFP Project, began in 2023 with a feasibility study aimed at evaluating options for integrating case management systems among WIOA Core Program partners. Ms. Nina Staggars, Assistant Executive Director of Workforce Development, provided an update outlining the progress made and the next steps for the SCWOS Modernization initiative.

SWDB Member Acknowledgement.....Mr. Thomas Freeland

Throughout the meeting agenda, Chairman Freeland welcomed the nine (9) newly appointed SWDB Members:

- Mrs. Hope Broadway, President, Palmetto HR Business Partners, LLC.
- Mr. Corey Epps, Director of HR Production, Scout Motors
- Ms. Nancy Foster, Lower Savannah Local Workforce Development Board; Founder and CEO, Foster & Company Real Estate



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- Mr. Stephen Gilchrest, Chairman, South Carolina African American Chamber of Commerce and Commissioner of the US Commission on Civil Rights
- Ms. Lelia King, Founding Executive Director, Build Carolina
- Ms. Jennifer Moore, VP of Community Impact, United Way of the Midlands
- Mr. Kevin Pak, Chair of Lowcountry Local Workforce Development Board; Technology Director, Paknet Technologies, LLC.
- Mr. Matthew Pollard, Senior Brokerage Associate, Colliers
- Ms. April Simpkins, President, Paragon Strategy Partners

Chairman Freeland recognized Mr. Cliff Bourke, Mr. Jay Holloway, Mr. Michael Sexton, and Mr. Greg Tinnell for their contributions to SWDB and for serving a combined total of 52 years as members of the State Workforce Development Board. These members received a plaque presented by the SWDB Chair and Governor Henry D. McMaster.

Other Business/Adjourn.....Mr. Thomas Freeland

The SWDB Onboarding and Training process has been updated to utilize the Learning Management System. Members were advised not to delete the email from SCWorkstraining@noverant.com with the subject line “Noverant LMS Welcome!” Members who did not receive the email or have questions were instructed to email swdb@dew.sc.gov.

Following the Q3 meeting, members received a survey to indicate their availability for session one of the SWDB Member Onboarding and Training that will be facilitated in person. All members are welcome to attend.

Chairman Freeland reminded SWDB members that the next full board meeting will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in the C. Lem Harper Building and encouraged in-person attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 12:19 p.m.