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**Committee on Workforce Innovation Meeting  
Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.**

**Join on your computer or mobile app**  
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Meeting ID: 280 368 408 568  
Passcode: YhNWsE

**Or call in (audio only)**  
+1 803-400-6195  
Phone Conference ID: 661 229 208#

**AGENDA**

- I. Welcome and Opening Remarks .....Dr. Windsor Sherrill, Committee Chair
- II. Approval of February 6, 2025, Meeting Minutes\* ..... Dr. Sherrill
- III. Committee Priorities Review .....Ms. Pamela H. Jones
- IV. EmpowerU: Futures Unlocked Initiative .....Ms. Nina Staggers
- V. Other Business/Adjourn..... Dr. Sherrill

\*Denotes Voting Item

**Governor's State Workforce Development Board  
February 6, 2025, Workforce Innovation Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Dr. Windsor Sherrill\*, Chair  
Ms. Susan H. Cohen  
Col. Craig Currey  
Dr. Tim Hardee  
Mr. Jay Holloway  
Ms. Elaine Morgan

**Members Absent:**

Ms. Felicia Johnson  
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 November 7, 2024, Meeting Minutes\* .....Dr. Sherrill**

Col. Craig Currey motioned to approve the November 7, 2024, meeting minutes. Mr. Jay Holloway seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously approved the meeting minutes.

**Plan of Action for Committee Priorities .....Mrs. Pamela H. Jones**

Mrs. Pamela Jones reviewed the priorities outlined in the SWDB Strategic Plan and provided updates on the progress of each priority.

<b>Workforce Innovation Committee</b>	
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Promote SC Professional Skills Credential, developing attainment goal.	- Staff are working with partners to identify additional locations where the assessment can be provided.
Explore how to maximize youth employment resources.	- Staff are communicating with Regional Workforce Advisors (RWAs) and community leaders to increase awareness of programs and resources available. - Staff will be communicating with the CCWD on how to maximize their online tool for resources and career pathway information.
Collect and distribute a catalog of promising practices and models for removing obstacles, primarily related to transportation, childcare, and housing.	- Staff are currently researching models for removing barriers to employment that can be easily replicated in other areas.
Funding to implement models for removing barriers.	- Staff are currently engaged in research and discussions with community leaders and subject matter experts.

**Governor’s State Workforce Development Board  
February 6, 2025, Workforce Innovation Committee Meeting Minutes**

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Progress</b>
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 Collaborate 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>

**Connection Points Overview .....Ms. Lisa Long/Ms. Kathy Stanton**

To support the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) State Plan strategy to increase access to education and training necessary for individuals to use broadband to advance their personal goals and increase South Carolina’s technology workforce competitiveness, Ms. Lisa Long and Ms. Kathy Stanton, Employment Service Area Directors, provided an overview of Connection Points and their role in the SC Works System.

Connection Points are designed to offer consumers a wide array of career service resources available through the Department of Employment and Workforce and SC Works. Organizations interested in becoming a Connection Point can apply through the Connection Point Expansion grant program. This grant provides approved applicants up to \$25,000 to expand digital access to employment services. Currently, there are over 175 Connection Points statewide, and this number is expected to expand as the demand for digital literacy continues to grow in South Carolina.

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

Dr. Sherrill reminded Committee members that the next SWDB meeting will be held on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. He also reminded state and local workforce board members that the Annual Ethics Training will be facilitated virtually on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.

Part two of the SC Works Information Series, “Embracing Digital Technology in the Workforce,” is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. In this session, the Office of Regulatory Staff’s Digital Opportunity Department will share updates on South Carolina’s Digital Equity plan, including broadband expansion grants and opportunities.

Part three of this series will be held on February 25, 2025, featuring speakers from the Department of Employment and Workforce’s Labor Market Information Division, SC Quantum, and the Savannah River National Laboratory.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.



# Workforce Innovation Committee

**PY'24 Q4**

**Wednesday, May 7, 2025**

# Workforce Innovation Committee Meeting Agenda

- I. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS
- II. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 6, 2025, MEETING MINUTES\*
- III. COMMITTEE PRIORITIES REVIEW
- IV. EMPOWERU: FUTURES UNLOCKED INITIATIVE
- V. OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURN

# Approval of February 6, 2025 Meeting Minutes\*

**Members Present:**

Dr. Windsor Sherrill\*, Chair  
Ms. Susan H. Cohen  
Col. Craig Currey  
Dr. Tim Hardee  
Mr. Jay Holloway  
Ms. Elaine Morgan

**Members Absent:**

Ms. Felicia Johnson  
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 November 7, 2024, Meeting Minutes\*** ..... Dr. Sherrill  
Col. Craig Currey motioned to approve the November 7, 2024, meeting minutes. Mr. Jay Holloway seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously approved the meeting minutes.

**Plan of Action for Committee Priorities** ..... Mrs. Pamela H. Jones  
Mrs. Pamela Jones reviewed the priorities outlined in the SWDB Strategic Plan and provided updates on the progress of each priority.

Workforce Innovation Committee	
Priority	Progress
Promote SC Professional Skills Credential, developing attainment goal.	- Staff are working with partners to identify additional locations where the assessment can be provided.
Explore how to maximize youth employment resources.	- Staff are communicating with Regional Workforce Advisors (RWAs) and community leaders to increase awareness of programs and resources available. - Staff will be communicating with the CCWD on how to maximize their online tool for resources and career pathway information.
Collect and distribute a catalog of promising practices and models for removing obstacles, primarily related to transportation, childcare, and housing.	- Staff are currently researching models for removing barriers to employment that can be easily replicated in other areas.
Funding to implement models for removing barriers.	- Staff are currently engaged in research and discussions with community leaders and subject matter experts.



# Committee Priorities Review

**Mrs. Pamela Jones**



<b><u>Workforce Innovation Committee</u></b> <b><u>PY'24 - 27</u></b>			
Priorities	PY'	Description	Progress
Explore how to maximize youth employment resources.	2025	Increase awareness of resources for career pathways for K-12 students and parents.	Staff is communicating with the Regional Workforce Advisors (RWA) and community leaders about programs and resources available. The RWAs will present virtually during the Executive meeting on May 29, 2025, at 11. Staff will be communicating with CCWD on how to maximize their online tool for resources and career pathways information.
Collect and distribute a catalog of promising practice and models for removing obstacles, primarily related to transportation, childcare, and housing.	2025	Collect promising practices, models, and resources to increase awareness of resources to mitigate obstacles to employment, to create and distribute an electronic and physical resource catalog for to the SC Works system.	Staff continues researching and cataloging promising practices and resources for removing barriers to employment, speaking with community leaders, SMEs, and other states.
Funding to implement models for removing barriers.	2025	Provide funding to implement a model identified in the catalog process.	Staff continues to research potential models removing barriers to employment, that local areas to replicate.
Evaluate the need and feasibility of a statewide electric vehicle workforce collaborative.	2026	Conduct a feasibility study to determine if a statewide electric vehicle workforce collaborative is needed to ensure that the skills and credentials employers need for EV related jobs is understood, and SC's workforce system has qualified job seekers.	Staff participates on the SE Region EV Collaborative where they receive updates that can be shared with the SC system. Collaborating with state agencies and employers to learn more about the training needed in the infrastructure, energy, and advance manufacturing sectors.
Promote SC Professional Skills Credential, developing attainment goal.	2026	Promote the SC Professional Skills Credential across the workforce system, increasing the number of credentials obtained, while increasing the number of employers that recognize the credential as a value add when evaluating employment applicants.	Staff is continuing to identify how to improve the process for administering assessments. Office of Regulatory Staff will share information about the WIN Digital Literacy Assessment with grantees in future Digital Navigator locations.





# EmpowerU: Futures Unlocked Initiative

**Ms. Nina Staggers**



# EmpowerU: Futures Unlocked Career Exploration Pilot

Final Outcomes

# What is EmpowerU?

A structured career exploration program for DJJ participants that combines classroom instruction and virtual reality technology preparing incarcerated youth for employment, education, and other opportunity after release.

# Workshop Topics

- Social media safety
- Interview Tips
- Job Search Strategies
- Federal bonding
- Financial Literacy
- How to make a great first impression
- How to discuss your background/charges
- Linked In overview
- Email etiquette (proper grammar, professional email address)
- Other Business Etiquette

# Discussion on In Demand Occupations

- Career exploration exercises using VR headset
- Create resume
- Review and provide feedback on résumés
- Conduct mock Interviews to ensure accuracy and confidence when face-to-face with an employer
- Discuss on career pathways

# Participant Action Plan



Provided detailed next steps  
upon release



Made referrals to SC Works  
centers in the county in which  
participant plans to return



Helped connect participants  
to supportive services



Provided participant with a  
backpack that includes career  
focused information to help  
with their transition

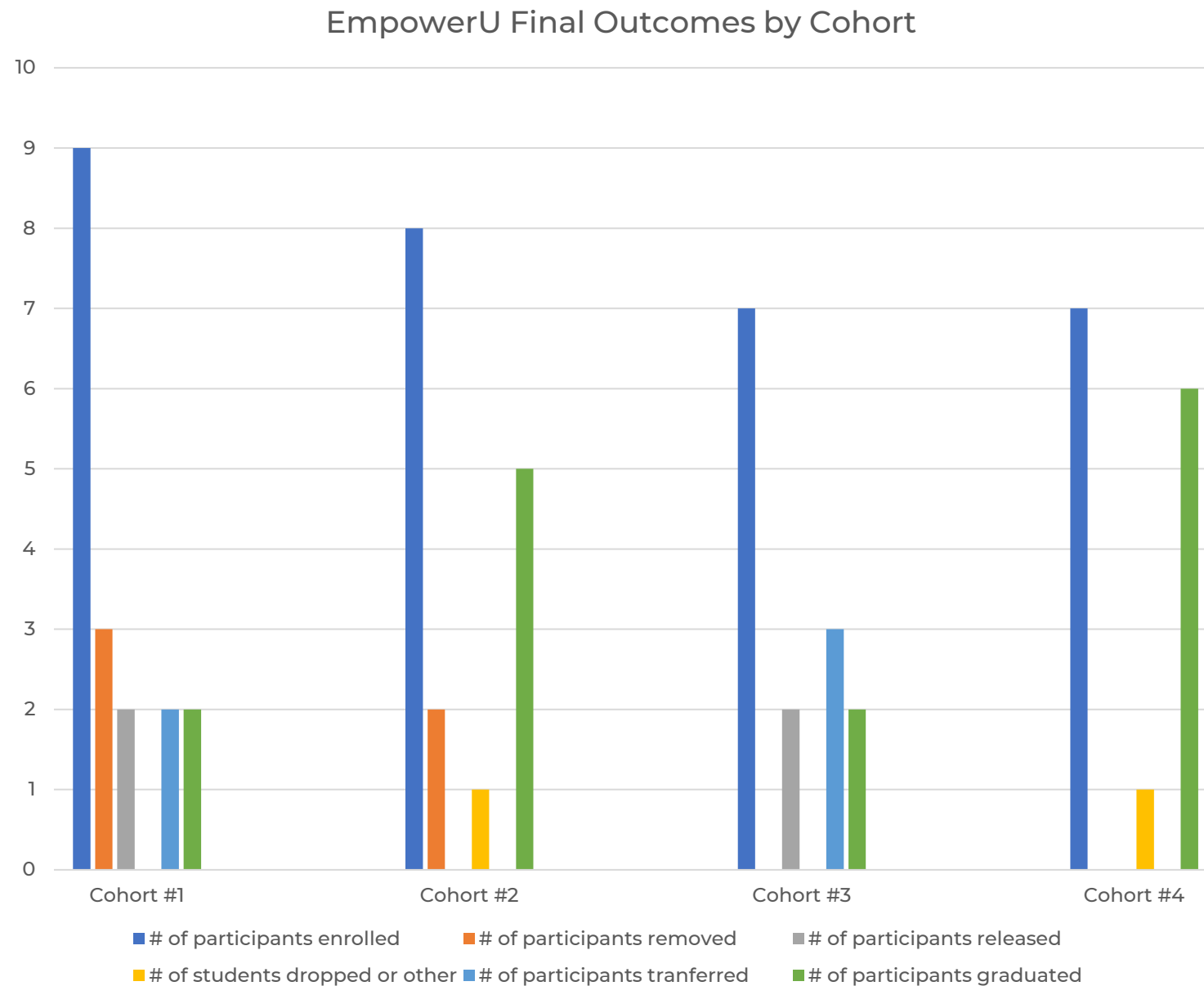


# Graduation Ceremony

Hosted a graduation for participants and their families

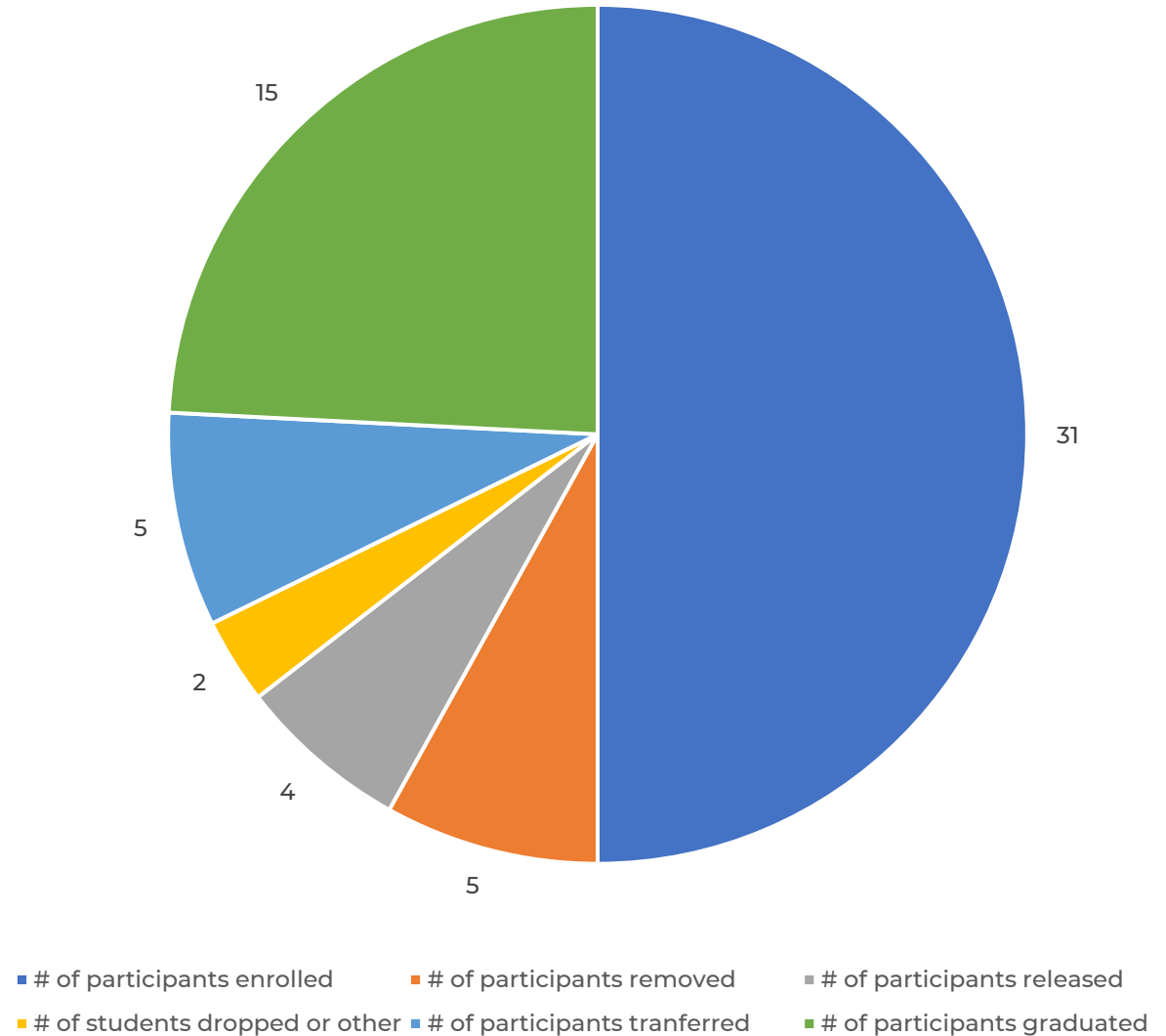


# Outcomes



# Outcomes, cont.

EmpowerU Overall Outcomes



# Challenges & Lessons Learned

## Challenges

- Participant selection
- Securing an appropriate learning environment
- Student resistance
- Behavioral issues
- Lack of engagement

## Lessons Learned

- Need a flexible approach
- Importance of establishing meaningful connections
- Importance of communication and collaboration
- Program may be better suited for a long-term

# Success Story

Alexander, a student who initially struggled with motivation and was easily distracted. Recognizing the need for a more engaging approach, staff implemented strategies to foster greater student involvement in class activities. By incorporating topics that resonated with his interests—such as budgeting and planning for life after release—it created an environment that encouraged active participation. Additionally, collaborative efforts on graduation planning, including discussions about ceremony details and meal preferences, further personalized the experience and strengthened student investment in the program.

As a result, Alexander's engagement significantly improved. He attended every session consistently and quickly emerged as one of the most dedicated participants in the cohort. Through the program, he developed a clear vision for his future, setting his sights on joining the military upon completing high school. With the guidance of a career counselor at the Evaluation Center, he was connected with a military recruiter to help turn his aspirations into reality.

Alexander's graduation from the EmpowerU program was a proud and inspiring moment, not only for him but for his family, who attended the ceremony to celebrate his accomplishments. His journey through the program highlights the transformative impact of personalized support and meaningful engagement, and he remains optimistic and excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.



# **Thank You!**

**Upcoming Meetings:**

**SC Works Management – May 14, 2025**

**Executive – May 29, 2025**

**Full Board – June 19, 2025**