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**MEETING REGIONAL STEMM WORKFORCE NEEDS IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19:
A VIRTUAL WORKSHOP SERIES**

Agenda for Workshop #5: Wichita, Kansas

Friday, October 30, 2020

12:00 – 3:15PM Central Time

Webcast available at <https://bit.ly/33TrCim>

Workshop Objective:

To understand how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting STEMM workforce challenges and opportunities in Wichita, and, approaches that are building onramps with equity to address the needs of Wichita workers that have been hit hardest by this crisis.

12:00 - 12:10 PM Welcome and workshop overview

Planning committee members welcome attendees and provide background on the workshop series

- Ms. Karen Elzey, Associate Executive Director of Workcred
- Dr. Donna Ginther, Roy A. Roberts Distinguished Professor of Economics and Director of the Institute for Policy & Social Research at the University of Kansas

12:10 - 12:30 PM Understanding the economic and workforce impacts of COVID-19 on Wichita

Data provided to frame the workshop discussions, including economic, labor force, educational attainment, and demographic data for the Wichita metro area.

- Dr. Donna Ginther, Roy A. Roberts Distinguished Professor of Economics and Director of the Institute for Policy & Social Research at the University of Kansas

12:30 - 1:15 PM Panel 1: Understanding state and local policy responses

This panel will discuss how COVID-19 has shifted Wichita's labor and workforce efforts and strategies.

- Mr. Scot Rigby, Assistant City Manager and Director of Development Services, City of Wichita
- Ms. Amanda Duncan, Vice President and Chief Business Development Officer, Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas
- Mr. Trent Armbrust, Director of Strategy for Bioscience and Technology, Kansas Department of Commerce
- Moderator: Ms. Deb Miller, Director of the Public Management Center, University of Kansas

1:15 - 1:30 PM Break

1:30 – 2:15PM Panel 2: How Wichita’s higher education workforce training efforts are responding to the COVID-19 crisis

This session will highlight changes in higher education workforce development programs as a result of COVID for the Wichita region.

- Dr. Susan Norton, Director of Adult Learning, Wichita State University
- Ms. Kimberly Moore, Director for Workforce, Professional, and Community Education, Wichita State University
- Mr. Christopher Stanyer, Vice President of Career Services, Goodwill Industries of Kansas
- Ms. Deltha Colvin, Associate Vice President for Special Programs in the Office of Regional Engagement and Economic Development, Wichita State University
- Moderator: Ms. Karen Elzey, Associate Executive Director of Workcred

2:15 - 3:00 PM Panel 3: How Wichita’s workforce training infrastructure is responding to the COVID-19 crisis

Panelists will discuss post-COVID policy responses and investments in workforce training programs, including the impact of the pandemic on workforce alignment and learner access.

- Ms. Michele Gifford, Human Resources Director for Operations and Workforce Programs, Textron Aviation
- Ms. Amy Williams, Senior Manager Global Community Relations and Corporate Administration, Spirit AeroSystems Inc.
- Ms. Cheryl Childers, Human Resource Manager, Cox Machine, Inc.
- Moderator: Dr. Lida Beninson, Senior Program Officer, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

3:00 - 3:15 PM Closing Remarks

A closing summary of themes and takeaways from the workshop and key priorities for Wichita’s workforce ecosystem and policy, business, education, and training institutions.

- Dr. Lida Beninson, Senior Program Officer, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

MEETING REGIONAL STEMM WORKFORCE NEEDS IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19: A VIRTUAL WORKSHOP SERIES

Statement of Task

A committee will plan and host a series of six virtual workshops to identify immediate and near-term regional science, technology, engineering, math, and medical (STEMM) workforce needs in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 has impacted workforce demand that includes, but is not limited to, data analytics for logistics and operations, health care, manufacturing, agriculture, and IT infrastructure. The workshops will highlight promising practices that 2-year and 4-year higher education institutions, as well as non-academic training and certification programs, can utilize to respond urgently and appropriately to those needs. In this context, effectiveness of the practices will be judged, in part, on the number of learners who can be reached, especially in the skilled technical workforce. A series of five regionally-specific virtual sessions will address the following questions:

- How have the current and near term regional STEMM labor market needs changed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly the needs for the skilled technical workforce (e.g., in IT and computing fields, health tech sectors, manufacturing)?
- To what extent can a regional profile be created that links STEMM educational and training resources with COVID-19 impacted workforce needs, including retraining and certification of professionals?
- What practices and policies can local higher education institutions and workforce training organizations adopt to respond to local industry STEMM workforce needs, both individually and as part of regional coalitions? Which effective practices and policies are replicable and scalable? What barriers, if any, exist that inhibit these programs from meeting COVID-19 shifts in regional STEMM workforce needs?
- How can workforce training and education systems address the significant and urgent needs of the underrepresented minority population, which has been especially impacted by the effects of COVID-19? Can the recent events related to the death of George Floyd raise awareness of the disenfranchisement of the nation's underrepresented minority populations that result from institutionalized racism, and therefore increase focus on the particular needs of those populations?
- What actions are needed to assist local higher education institutions, training and certification programs, industry, and policy makers at the local, state, and federal levels in fostering improved linkages between education and training resources and STEMM workforce needs at the regional level as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Following the five regional sessions, the Committee will convene a concluding virtual workshop, and a designated rapporteur will prepare a proceedings of the workshop series.