

Arizona Apprenticeship Advisory Committee (AAAC) Public Meeting Minutes for April 10, 2024

Attendance

Committee Members Present (Virtually)

Mr. Dennis Anthony, Chairman (Arizona Public Service)
Ms. Deb Furlong (City of Phoenix Workforce Development)
Mr. Frank Grijalva (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers)
Ms. Jill Smith (Careers through Culinary Arts Program C-CAP)
Mr. Jim Mayer (Skill Up Arizona Apprenticeship and Award Foundation)
Ms. Karen King (Training Director, Tucson Electrical JATC)
Ms. Kimberly Faust (Maricopa Community College District)
Ms. Linda Vedo (Central Arizona Project)
Mr. Mike Greenawalt (Rosendin Electric)

Committee Members Absent

Ms. Cindy Gutierrez (Arizona Department of Education Career and Technical Education)
Vacant (Arizona Industrial Commission)

Staff Present for Department of Economic Security/Registration Agency

Joann Bueno, Arizona Apprenticeship Office (Interim State Apprenticeship Director)
Betsy Nelson, Arizona Apprenticeship Office (Apprenticeship Supervisor)
Connie Thomas, Arizona Apprenticeship Office (Apprenticeship Supervisor)
Gina Revere, Arizona Apprenticeship Office (Lead Apprenticeship and Training Representative)
Robert Demeter, Arizona Apprenticeship Office (Lead Apprenticeship and Training Representative)
Brynn Gieron, Arizona Apprenticeship Office (Apprenticeship Compliance Specialist)
Ms. Corinna Pereira, Multi-State Navigator DOL Office of Apprenticeship (Invited by AAO Staff)

Minutes of the Meeting

Call To Order

Mr. Anthony called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Anthony welcomed all Committee members and asked all in attendance to introduce themselves.

Acceptance of January 10, 2024 Minutes

Mr. Anthony requested a motion to accept the AAAC meeting minutes of January 10, 2024, with no corrections. A motion was moved by Mr. Grijalva and seconded by Mr. Greenawalt.
The motion to accept minutes with no corrections was unanimously approved by those present.

New Business

AAAC Membership Updates

Ms. Joann Bueno stated that ten of the thirteen-person membership seats for the AAAC are currently filled. One slot representing Employee Organizations remains vacant and likewise, positions allotted for the Arizona Industrial Commission and the Office of Apprenticeship have also been vacant for a while. The request to reevaluate the Committee makeup in light of these vacancies has already been submitted for approval.

Mr. Anthony acknowledged Ms. Jill Smith from the Careers through Culinary Arts Program (C-CAP) and Mr. Jim Mayer from the Skill Up Arizona Apprenticeship and Awards Foundation and welcomed them as new members of the Committee. Each one was invited to briefly introduce themselves.

Arizona Apprenticeship Office (AAO) Staff Update

Ms. Joann Bueno provided staff updates on recruitment and hiring of four new Apprenticeship Training Representatives by the end of April. Bringing the team to a total of ten staff members.

House Bill 2090 - Certificates of Completion

Mr. Joann Bueno discussed the passing of AZ H.B. 2090. The bill will require apprentices and apprenticeship program sponsors to register Certificates of Completion Of DOL or DES-approved apprenticeship programs with the Arizona Registrar of Contractors (AZ ROC) in a manner prescribed by them. The AZ ROC will be required to retain these documents for ten years. This becomes effective on the general effective date as stated on the bill.

Informal Stakeholder Comments on DES Rulemaking for Employment Service (Title 6, Chapter 2 of the Arizona Administrative Code (6AAC2))

Ms. Joann Bueno relayed that the DERS Policy Administration received approval from the Governor's Office to pursue rulemaking for Employment Services (6AAC2), including the Registered Apprenticeship Program. Part of this process for review and approval is to request formal feedback from external stakeholders. The members of the AAAC have been identified as stakeholders and will be contacted via email for comments.

National Youth Apprenticeship Week

Ms. Joann Bueno shared that the Department of Labor has announced May 5-11, 2024, as National Youth Apprenticeship Week. Coinciding with said event, the Arizona Apprenticeship Office has requested the Governor's Office to proclaim Arizona Youth Apprenticeship on those exact dates. Communication has been sent out to various program sponsors and workforce stakeholders to highlight events celebrating this week.

Finalize AAAC Meeting's Format - Hybrid vs Virtual

Mr. Anthony reviewed last meeting's discussions regarding the format moving to a Hybrid model, including an in-person and a virtual option. Mr. Anthony asked if any Committee members opposed the hybrid model. No Committee members opposed it. The Committee was in agreement of a Hybrid format. Mr. Anthony reminded the Committee that when the Hybrid format is adopted to ensure that the requirements regarding Open Meeting Laws are observed. Mr. Anthony requested committee members

interested in hosting meetings to contact Ms. Joann Bueno to work on getting a schedule together. Mr. Anthony reminded the Committee that with a Hybrid format, the time of the meeting will change to 10 am to accommodate for travel. All Committee members were in agreement.

Old Business

Update of Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)

Ms. Joann Bueno informed everyone that the National Apprenticeship System Enhancements public comment period has closed on March 18, 2024. Various entities and interest groups have weighed in and sent significant volumes of comments. The Department of Labor will be responding to every public comment, which takes approximately eighteen months to effect any proposed rules.

Update of State Apprenticeship Rules and EEO Plan Based on CFR 29:30 AND CFR 29:29 Part A

Ms. Joann Bueno updated the Committee on the status of the State Apprenticeship Rules as it will be part of the Employment Services up for comment by the Committee members and other identified Stakeholders. Once approved, the State Apprenticeship Plan will be developed and sent to the AAAC Chairman and DES Director for signature and submitted to the Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship for approval and implementation.

Update on Outstanding Apprentice Awards 2024

Ms. Karen King provided an update on the Awards dinner and ceremony scheduled for November 23, 2024 at the Wigwam Resort in Phoenix. Ms. King is aiming to get all the invitations sent out by the end of the month. Several Committee members offered to assist Ms. King in the event.

Status Reports

Chairman's Report

Mr. Anthony shared that, next Monday, the APS apprenticeship program will be onboarding twenty-nine pre-apprentices and welcoming twenty-nine new employees to their Registered Apprenticeship program. Mr. Anthony shared that among the three programs, there are: twenty new lineman pre-apprentices, seven substation electricians, and three polyphase meter men pre-apprentices.

Apprenticeship Activity Report

Ms. Bueno reports that there are currently over 250 active programs and 6,576 active apprentices under programs registered with the state, but including the programs registered with the Office of Apprenticeship (OA), there are 7,018 apprentices in total. Out of the 250 active programs, 94 offer traditional occupations, 145 offer non-traditional, and ten offer both non-traditional and traditional occupations. Ms. Bueno stated that there is 12.5% female participation, 5.3% veteran participation and 1.7% participation from persons with disabilities in apprenticeship in Arizona. Ms. Bueno encouraged programs to continue to have their apprentices complete Voluntary Disability Disclosure forms annually.

Ms. Bueno provided an update on the State Apprenticeship Expansion Funding (SAEF) grants. The first year of SAEF funds were appropriated for the expansion and to build additional capacity for the Arizona Apprenticeship Office. The proposal for the SAEF, Round 2 grant funding has been submitted on April 4th. The funds from this grant will be used to sustain the newly formed AAO team, support its

continued training and development as well as for marketing efforts through social media presence and employer engagement events development coordination. Ms. Bueno also provided information on the Apprenticeship Building America grant, Round 2 (ABA2). Ms. Bueno informed everyone that in order to submit a proposal for consideration for grant funding, a Letter of Support from the Director of the State Apprenticeship Agency is required as an attachment. Ms. Bueno clarified that the letter does not come from the Arizona Apprenticeship Office but from the Assistant Director of the Division of Employment and Rehabilitation Services in which AAO is housed. Ms. Bueno added that this process could often take 4-6 weeks.

US DOL Multi-State Navigator Report

Ms. Corinna Pereira provided information on the following topics:

- Registration of 29 new apprenticeship programs in the last quarter, within various states and territories, including Saipan.
- Executive Order issued on March 6, 2024, by President Biden on expanding the use of Registered Apprenticeship For Federal agencies. Ms. Pereira noted that the Registered Apprenticeship opportunities within various Federal agencies will assist in expanding its workforce.
- The appointment of 30 new members to the Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship.
- Migration of the RAPIDS website to a new URL effective April 13, 2024.
- Training and Employment Notice (Ten) 23-23 issued on March 4, 2024, providing new guidance on pre-apprenticeship.
- Forecasted release of the Women in Apprenticeship Nontraditional Occupations (WANTO) grant.
- The Apprenticeship Trailblazer Initiative has recognized an apprentice from The Harford, General Insurance Associate, and adds that this could be highlighted during Youth Apprenticeship Week.

Ms. Pereira encouraged the Committee members to explore the Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship website, which includes a vast amount of information, including the Registered Apprenticeship Academy and new videos.

Council Members Reports

Ms. Karen King (Training Director, Tucson Electrical JATC): There are currently 153 apprentices, and 21 will graduate in June. The program is working on the recruitment of 50 first-year apprentices and is currently moving into a new building. Ms. King shared that sponsorship from the golf tournament held recently raised over \$55,000.00.

Ms. Linda Vedo (Central Arizona Project): Reported 8 apprentices and 2 new electricians will be starting at the end of the month.

Mr. Mike Greenawalt (Rosendin Electric): Rosendin Electric remains very active in Arizona with 1,100 workers in Arizona and 200 apprentices maintaining the apprenticeship numbers. Rosendin continues to work with GCU and partners in the industry to increase the number of registered apprentices.

Ms. Deb Furlong (City of Phoenix Workforce Development): Apprenticeship with TSMC will begin on April 18, 2024, with eight apprentices participating. Communications are underway with West-MEC regarding apprenticeship programs for youth in apprenticeship and potential funding for employers.

Ms. Furlong further adds that the City of Phoenix is currently in the process of speaking with Assistant Secretary Donald Lu to travel to Phoenix, Arizona. Ms. Furlong to share more information once they are finalized.

Ms. Kimberly Faust (Maricopa Community College District): Maricopa Community College District is currently undergoing changes and will provide a report next meeting.

Ms. Jill Smith (Careers through Culinary Arts Program C-CAP): Reported 42 active apprentices participating in one year entry level baker apprenticeship and cook apprenticeship.

Mr. Jim Mayer (Skill Up Arizona Apprenticeship and Award Foundation): Precision Manufacturing is working with five different programs and 18 active apprentices. Mr. Mayer is launching the State of Arizona's first Uniquely Able Academy open house on April 11, 2024, at Gateway Community College and is currently working with GCU to create a pre-apprenticeship pipeline to Skill Up Arizona manufacturing apprenticeship program.

Mr. Frank Grijalva (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers): IBEW Phoenix local JATC has 823 active apprentices and an additional 36 active apprentices in Globe. The industry continues to move forward with multiple projects forecasted.

Call to the Public

Mr. Anthony asked the public for any comments.

The Chairman deferred public comment on the BuildItAz initiative and its grant application process to the Arizona Apprenticeship office to address later.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on July 10, 2024. Currently the same format (Virtual) but could change to Hybrid.

Committee members will be notified with an invitation to the next meeting, which will include an agenda for the meeting and draft minutes of this meeting. Future meetings are scheduled quarterly on the second Wednesday of that month (July, October, and January), tentatively scheduled from 8 am to 10 am. Subject to change pending logistics for next meeting.

Adjournment

Mr. Anthony adjourned the meeting at 9:09 am.