

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

(Draft manuscript. Subject to approval at the next meeting.)

## Attendance

### Committee Members Present

Mr. Dennis Anthony, Chairman (Integrity Project Services and Consulting)  
Ms. Deb Furlong (City of Phoenix Workforce Development)  
Mr. Frank Grijalva (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers)  
Mr. Jim Mayer (Skill Up Arizona Apprenticeship and Award Foundation)  
Ms. Karen King (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. Jill Smith (Careers through Culinary Arts Program)  
Ms. Cindy Gutierrez (Arizona Department of Education Career and Technical Education)  
Vacant (Employee Organization)  
Vacant (Arizona Industrial Commission)

### Staff Present for Department of Economic Security (DES)/Arizona Apprenticeship Office (AAO)

Joann Bueno, State Apprenticeship Program Director  
Betsy Nelson, Registered Apprenticeship Supervisor  
Gina Revere, Lead Apprenticeship and Training Representative  
Robert Demeter, Lead Apprenticeship and Training Representative  
Brynn Gieron, Apprenticeship Compliance Specialist  
Andre Prince, Apprenticeship and Training Representative  
Mariah Charley, Apprenticeship and Training Representative  
John Aguirre, Apprenticeship and Training Representative  
Alejandro Garcia, Apprenticeship and Training Representative  
Ms. Corinna Pereira, Multi-State Navigator (Invited by AAO Staff), DOL Office of Apprenticeship

## Minutes

### 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 April 10, 2024, Minutes**

Mr. Anthony requested a motion to accept the April 10, 2024 AAAC meeting minutes. Mr. Grijalva moved the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Greenwalt.

The motion to accept minutes was unanimously approved by those present as submitted.

## **New Business**

### **State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula Grant Funding, Year 2**

Ms. Joann Bueno shared that the Department of Economic Security, through the Arizona Apprenticeship Office (AAO), has been awarded the State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula, Year 2 (SAEF2) funding amounting to a little over \$894k. The grant covers the period from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Ms. Bueno further shared that the AAO also has the State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula, Year 1 (SAEF1) grant funding, which has been extended through June 30, 2025. Based on the award, the unused funds from SAEF1 and the SAEF2 funding have been combined. A meeting with the DOL FPO will be held to discuss this.

Ms. Bueno also shared an overview of the SAEF2 and that it is appropriated to fully support and sustain the newly expanded AAO team to continue the promotion and growth of Registered Apprenticeship throughout the state. Other extra funds will be used to further support the team's work through the production of communication materials, exploration of social media, and plans to hold a statewide event like an apprenticeship summit like the workforce summits held by the Workforce Arizona Council and the local workforce areas. The planned event projects an attendance of around 300 people and is slated for spring 2025.

Ms. Bueno added that SAEF1 funding was around \$678k. Combined with SAEF2, the DOL has awarded the AAO about \$1.5M for apprenticeship expansion.

### **Hybrid Format For Future AAAC Meetings**

Ms. Bueno shared that the AAO is exploring using a hybrid format for the next meeting scheduled for October. The AAO has contacted the City of Phoenix to possibly host the first round at their facilities. She added that with the anticipated change in format to accommodate in-person attendance, the meeting needed to be moved to a later time, thus enabling attendees to have appropriate time for their commute. The new suggested time would be around 10 a.m.

Ms. Deb Furlong discussed doing it at their Phoenix Business Center on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Van Buren in Phoenix. She also shared that there is a parking garage underneath the building and can validate parking for everyone. Ms. Furlong stated that the facility has been used for board meetings and is equipped with cameras and technology to support a hybrid format.

Mr. Dennis Anthony added that AAAC meetings before the pandemic were initially scheduled at 10 am for the same reason Ms. Bueno had mentioned. He further emphasized that there will be a virtual option for those who are unable to attend physically.

Mr. Anthony asked the Committee if anyone opposed adopting the hybrid option. No one opposed it and took it as tacit approval to move forward.

The AAO will send out the invite for a later schedule in October to secure the date on everyone's calendars.

## **Old Business**

### **Update On State Apprenticeship Rules & EEO Plan Based On CFR 29:30 And CFR 29:29**

Ms. Bueno shared information regarding the Employment Services rules recently published for public comment. The rules recently garnered no remarks from all identified stakeholders and everyone on the Committee contacted by DES' Policy team. The document has moved to the Governance and Innovation Administration (GIA) for further review and approval. The slated timeline to complete the process for approval of the state rules is about 12-18 months from here on out.

### **Update On Outstanding Apprentice Awards 2024**

Ms. Karen shared a few updates with the Committee regarding the awards ceremony. She said ticket purchases and nominations are slowly trickling in, but she anticipates many responses the closer it gets to the specified deadline of August 1, 2024. She confirmed it will be held at the Wigwam Resort in Phoenix on November 23, 2024.

Ms. Bueno added that the request for the proclamation for Arizona Apprenticeship Week has also been submitted to the Governor's Office with a target deadline of two weeks before the ceremony. She also shared that a request for the Governor's attendance was already submitted, but no confirmation has been received.

Mr. Anthony shared that Jason Lujan from Arizona Public Service will be the point of contact for coordination regarding the printing of the programs.

Ms. Bueno mentioned to the Committee the potential for sharing the invitation with the Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) so they can witness the apprentices and programs they support through their local funding.

Mr. Anthony asked the committee if anyone opposed adding the local Workforce with limited board members to the invitation for the ceremony. No one opposed it and took it as tacit approval to move forward.

## **Status Reports**

### **Chairman's Report**

Mr. Anthony shared that he is working with a couple of programs to develop standards for a training program to add to the Registered Apprenticeship Program. He offers technical assistance and explains the benefits of a Registered Apprenticeship to various organizations he is working with.

### **Apprenticeship Activity Report**

Ms. Joann Bueno shared that the AAO team is complete and has made progress with engagement of

different local workforce areas, notably with increased engagement in rural areas such as Northeastern (Navajo and Apache counties), Southeastern (Cochise), Santa Cruz, Pinal, and Coconino. She added that an apprenticeship accelerator event will occur at Mohave and La Paz in two weeks. This 3-day accelerator will occur in Bullhead, Kingman, and Lake Havasu.

Ms. Bueno reported that over 7,400 Apprentices actively participate in apprenticeship programs throughout the state in programs registered by the Arizona Apprenticeship Office (AAO) programs and the Office of Apprenticeship (OA), 12% of whom are female, 5% of whom are veterans, and 1.8% of whom are people with disabilities. Ms. Bueno shared the team's plans to increase information awareness on diversity and inclusion in apprenticeship programs to further increase the participation of underrepresented populations.

Ms. Bueno further reported that there are currently 264 active programs, 153 of which are in non-traditional occupations, 98 in traditional, and 10 in traditional and non-traditional occupations. She shares further that the AAO team is anticipating the launch of teacher apprenticeships, which will serve Phoenix or Maricopa County and rural areas. She added that the team continues to work with companies in the semiconductor industry and the clean energy sector. The Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law have greatly interested the Registered Apprenticeship Program.

### **US DOL Multi-Navigator Report**

Ms. Corinna Pereira shared minor updates from the Office of Apprenticeship, namely the first Youth Apprenticeship Week event and Acting Secretary Julie Su's recent visit to Arizona to kick off the Good Jobs Summer Tour. She added that the AAO's presence through Ms. Bueno's participation at the workforce roundtable with the Acting secretary had been noted in the OA's internal newsletters.

Ms. Bueno asked Ms. Pereira if there had been any updates on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). Ms. Corinna confirmed that there have been no updates. However, she added to OA that management and field representatives have been invited to attend training on the NPRM at the end of September in Washington, DC.

### **Council Members Report**

**Ms. Karen King (Tucson Electrical JATC):** They have interviewed over 115 applicants and accepted 65. Two more were eliminated due to the boot camp. As a result, the JATC would have 2 - 3 big classes. Their program has graduated 21 apprentices out of 30. Ms. King also added that they are moving to their new building. Their instructors are attending the National Training Institute at the end of the month and starting school in August.

**Ms. Linda Vedo (Central Arizona Project):** The program currently has nine apprentices and another apprentice is anticipated to be registered this year.

**Mr. Mike Greenawalt (Rosendin Electric):** Rosendin has about 1,000 people working in the field, 618 journeyworker wiremen, and 238 apprentices. The company is working to integrate youth in apprenticeships as a strategy for the long-term health of the company. They are also working and training CDWs to take the journeyworker requirements tests. Mr. Greenawalt added that they continue to work with Grand Canyon University on their pre-apprenticeship programs. The program has put through approximately 300 young men and women in 4 semesters and ensured each entry into a registered apprenticeship. The goal is to have individuals going to college for a semester with the help of high school counselors willing to send them to the program versus straight to an apprenticeship.

**Ms. Deb Furlong (City of Phoenix Workforce Development):** Shared insight about navigating and understanding some discrepancies and barriers for their Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) service providers offering support services and funding for individuals in the apprenticeship programs. She shared that she has been researching local areas that support apprenticeships to study the issue further. She also shared a meeting with GCU to create pathways for individuals.

**Ms. Kimberly Faust (Maricopa Community College District):** Shared information about [Proposition 486](#), which discussed Maricopa Community Colleges Expenditure Limit and encouraged everyone to spread awareness.

**Mr. Jim Mayer (Skill Up Arizona Apprenticeship and Award Foundation):** The program currently has 15 apprentices with a graduation slated for the following week. The program received 28 youth applicants in the last 6 to 7 and helped with their focused efforts for a pre-apprenticeship pipeline. The program is working with GCU to solidify a pre-apprenticeship program as well. Mr. Mayer announced the launching of their first cohort for the Uniquely Able Project at Grand Gateway Community College this fall. The Uniquely Able Project is for neurodiverse individuals and aims to train them to become skilled machinists.

**Mr. Frank Grijalva (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers):** Phoenix Electrical JATC currently has over 800 apprentices, with another class with over 150 to 160 participants. The IBEW recently met with TSMC, which is preparing to start Fab 2 soon. This new construction will benefit apprenticeship because it will be a Davis Bacon prevailing wage project. The ratio of journey workers and apprentices will be strictly observed for the project. This creates a little issue for their CDWs because they won't be able to work at the site.

Mr. Grijalva added that they have a program now, one for line workers. Much work is coming in with the data centers, chip plants, manufacturers, and packaging plants.

## Call To The Public

Mr. Anthony asked the public for any comments. Receiving none, proceeded to the next topic on the agenda.

## Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on October 9, 2024. The meeting will be in a Hybrid format, offering in-person and virtual options for the attendees.

Committee members will be notified with an invitation to the next meeting, which will include an agenda and location and draft minutes of this meeting. Future meetings will be scheduled quarterly on the second Wednesday of that month (July, October, and January), tentatively scheduled from 10 am to 12 pm. This schedule is subject to change, pending logistics for the next meeting.

## Adjournment

Mr. Anthony adjourned the meeting at 9:16 am.