

# Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline Information Technology Industry Forum

## Meeting Notes

Date: 10/23/2019, 9:00 a.m.

Location: Department of Labor and Industry, 443 Lafayette Rd, St. Paul, MN

Welcome and introductions; introduce new staff member and Pipeline Specialist Katherine Fischenich

### Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline Updates: Annie Welch

- Show new video and encouraged others to share
- Offered refresher on dual training and talked about PIPELINE's connection to Youth Skills Training

### Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline New Recognition Badge: Kathleen Gordon

- We are launching a new PIPELINE Program recognition badge for employers and how to apply for the recognition. We realize that there are many organizations who have successfully implemented a dual-training program for their employees.
- Companies who already use the Dual Training Grant program for funding will get notice that they are already recognized and do not have to apply. The application is for companies who do not.
- We also discussed how Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline partners in education can also be recognized with a PIPELINE Partner Badge.

### Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline Community Partnerships Conversation: Kathleen Gordon

Hosted a conversation with two prompting questions:

- Who do you currently connect with to help your workforce needs in the community?
- Are you currently working with any non-profits on workforce?
- How can we better connect work of community-based organizations with employers to help find, train and retain talent?

Discussion offered:

1. Thomson Reuters works with Creating IT Futures, which has been going very well. Eight of the last ten people hired have been from this organization. The education is virtual, so employees train onsite, earning certifications, in computer labs at Thomson Reuters.
2. ArtUnlimited has served as a training site for youth from area high schools who are exploring technology careers through a grant from the Blandin Foundation (based in Grand Rapids).

3. A number of community-based organizations offer “kids learning to code” including Asian Media Access and Best Buy Teen Tech Centers. May be good for businesses to connect with them to offer dual-training opportunities for IT jobs.

**Note: Consider the Pipeline team to be a repository of this information and a resource. We are striving to deepen connections to help develop partnerships. Employers frequently discuss that they need workers and are willing to train them. CBOs and other organizations may be a great source of workers.**

### Conversation on Trends Driving the Future of I.T.: Kathleen Gordon

- Attendees discussed how Data Security, Cloud Computing and Big Data/Data Analytics are becoming more common in the I.T. space. Cyber Security and Cloud technology are the new skills to know on the horizon. Education providers are adding curriculum to address this need. These are the “help-desk” roles of the future.
- Northern Minnesota has a limited number of employees who have the needed skills. It’s helpful if the high schools could teach more basic technology skills.
- Discussed what I.T. programs/credentials could be taught in high school: Adobe software certification, CAD, Google certificates, Microsoft office – all would be helpful for any future career.
- Perhaps DEED could offer I.T. training in A+ for displaced workers as a foundation for new tech careers?
- CompTIA I.T. Fundamentals is a good starting point for youth who want to enter the tech space.
- Employers requested that Prime Digital Academy add a User Experience (UX) Design program due to needs in their workforce.

### Dual Training Grant updates: Jacquelynn Mol Sletten

- OHE awarded \$2.8 million in 2019 to 58 different companies with fewer than 10 in I.T.
- The next Dual Training Grant Round 9 for new and existing employers will open for application on March 23, 2020 and close on May 1, 2020. (Contact [Jacquelynn.Mol.Sletten@state.mn.us](mailto:Jacquelynn.Mol.Sletten@state.mn.us) at the Office of Higher Education for more information). Award notices will be given out by June 15, 2019.
- Dual Training Grant workshops will be held in February and March of 2020.

### Next Steps

- Next Advanced I.T. Industry Forum: Early February 2020
- Speaker Series on December 5, 2019. If anyone has any ideas for speaker topics, please let us know.
- If anyone has suggestions for agenda items for next Industry Forum, please let us know.