

FINAL

VIRGINIA APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL MINUTES Thursday, March 16, 2006

The Virginia Apprenticeship Council (Council) met on Thursday, March 16, 2006 at Confederate Hills Recreation Building, 302 Lee Avenue, Highland Springs, VA 23075. Chairman Barry Baker called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMEBERS PRESENT:

Barry W. Baker, Chairman
Robert M. Bess
Earl Dickerson
Delores Esser, Commissioner VEC
Dudley Harris
Darold S. Kemp
Dr. Tom Cecere for Dr. Glen DuBois
Earl C. Patterson
Dr. Steven Staples

STAFF PRESENT:

C. Ray Davenport, Commissioner, DOLI
Beverly Donati, Division Director
Reba O'Connor, Administrative Staff Specialist, Sr.
Debbie Rigdon, Human Resources Director

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Chairman Barry W. Baker called the regular scheduled quarterly meeting of the Virginia Apprenticeship Council to order. The presence of a quorum was established.

Chairman Baker opened the meeting by thanking Henrico Public Schools for hosting the meeting. He welcomed Commissioner Dee Esser to the Council.

Council members introduced themselves. Bev Donati introduced DOLI staff members Debbie Rigdon and Reba O'Connor. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship Training, State Director, Jim Walker introduced himself and BAT Apprenticeship Representatives Nat Dailey and John McDowell.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Michael Wood, owner of Nesbit Salon and Spas, addressed the Council. Mr. Wood stated that he had provided on site related instruction since the mid 1990s. He requested the approval to teach on site because he was not satisfied with the quality of instruction that was offered at the technical center. He also questioned the ability of apprentices to have the best learning experience if they attended school at night after working a full day. He stated that he was recently told by his manager that their in-house related instruction program was in jeopardy because Mr. Baul, VCCS Apprenticeship Related Instruction Coordinator, could no longer sign off on apprentices who completed related instruction. He is concerned that he misrepresented his company to the two current apprentices at his salon.

Mr. Harvey Crone responded and addressed the Council citing the high quality of training received by students in the J. Sargeant Community College service area. He clarified that these were high school students. Mr. Wood responded that he was speaking of adult apprentices.

Chairman Baker asked Ms. Donati if was prepared to respond. Ms. Donati answered that Mr. Wood would meet with Dr. Cecere after the meeting.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

There were no comments by members of the Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On proper motion and second the minutes for the Council meeting held on December 8, 2005 were approved unanimously by role call vote.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence to the Council.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Ad Hoc Subcommittee:

Subcommittee Chairman, Darold Kemp reported that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee did not meet this quarter.

b. Update Perkins Funding:

Dr. Staples reported that Congress had restored Perkins funding in its budget. He added that the proposed funding is flat for this year and that was good considering the numerous budget cuts.

Virginia Apprenticeship Alumni:

Mr. Harris reported that the Alumni Board of Directors would meet immediately following the Council meeting. The 2nd Annual Golf Tournament would be held in September. He encouraged everyone to become members.

REPORTS:

Virginia Community College System:

Dr. Tom Cecere reported for Ms. Westerman. He disturbed updated information on the restructuring of the delivery and oversight of related instruction. The state will be divided into two regions with an Apprenticeship Related Instruction Specialist assigned to each region. Dr. Cecere will have responsibility for the region west of Rt. 29 and the eastern position has not been filled. These positions are in addition to current coordinators and providers. The main purposes are to have continuity in classroom hours across the state and to increase the number of providers of apprenticeship related instruction. He reported that the ARI database is now in use. The ARI Guidelines and Initiatives for providers for FY 2006-07 were presented to the current providers (ARI Coordinators) earlier in March. Dr. Cecere showed a sample of a notebook that would be developed for DOLI Apprenticeship Representatives that would list all of the area providers and the courses offered at those sites. This information would be organized into the six VCCS Workforce Regions. A question and answer time followed Dr. Cecere's presentation. Chairman Baker thanked Dr. Cecere for the presentation and for the VCCS coordination of Apprenticeship Related Instruction.

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship Training:

Mr. Walker addressed the Council. Greetings were extended from the USDOL national and regional offices. He reported that the SAC Review schedule has been announced by the USDOL and Virginia is scheduled for 2007. He will not be part of the review.

Division of Registered Apprenticeship:

Ms. Donati began by stating that the two main purposes of the Apprenticeship Related Instruction restructuring is to have consistency across the state in both the course content and the number of related instruction classroom hours. She announced that interviews will be conducted in Manassas on Friday, March 24. There is a vacancy in Winchester. The staff continues to promote registered apprenticeship and be involved in local workforce development projects. There were no questions from Council members.

Department of Labor and Industry:

Commissioner Davenport addressed the Council. He announced that the new Secretary of Commerce and Trade is Patrick Gottschalk. The Department of Labor and Industry is one of thirteen agencies that comprise Commerce and Trade. To date there is no approved state budget. The General Assembly will return to Richmond on March 27 to deal with the budget and transportation issues. Governor Warner's budget included an additional \$133,850 for Registered Apprenticeship. The Senate budget included this; in the House budget this item was deleted. The Agency has been in contact with the conferees requesting that the amount be restored. Commissioner Davenport encouraged Council members and members of the audience to advise anyone that they believed would be interest in the apprenticeship representative positions to apply.

Workforce Council:

Commissioner Esser reported that legislation was passed to move the Workforce Council to the Governor's office. The Governor has not acted on this legislation. Currently there are 29 members on the Workforce Council. There was legislation introduced and passed to reduce the membership to 25. The Governor has not acted on this legislation yet. The effect is to make workforce development more of a policy issue and to elevate the issues surrounding workforce development throughout in the state.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The chairman thanked everyone for attending. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 15, 2005. The location will be announced at a later date.

Harvey Crone announced that Virginia has been selected to host the 2007 Southern Apprenticeship Council Conference. He will share more specifics at the September meeting.

The Chairman requested that Mr. Wood and Ms. Myers meet with him after the meeting adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Barry W. Baker, Chair

C. Ray Davenport, Secretary