



MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MARICOPA COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
Youth Committee

Thursday, May 2, 2024 – 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Teams

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**Members Present:** Anne Landers, Brittany Holmes, Dr. Carter, Jessica Putton, Liz Valdez, Marie Raymond, Nancy Stanford, and Tina Drews,  
(Note: All members present attended via Teams meeting)

**Members Absent:** Barbara Coakley, Dr. Critchfield, Jason Walker, Jessica Rivera-Garcia, Kathryn Collins, Tony Finn

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MEETING

**Call to Order.**

Chair Anne Landers called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. and requested a roll call.

**Roll Call.**

MCWDB Board Liaison Lisa Mehaffey took the role. A quorum was present.

**Welcome and Opening Remarks, and Meeting Objectives.**

Chair Landers welcomed everyone to the Youth Committee meeting and read the meeting objectives.

Meeting Objectives:

- Learn about current and future plans to incorporate STEM learning opportunities from the Maricopa County Superintendent of Schools office and our friends at ASU.
- Learn what Arizona@Work programs and initiatives interface with STEM opportunities.
- Hear from committee members regarding their suggestions for new ideas as we attempt to bridge the gap between youth and careers.

**Consent Agenda.**

Meeting Minutes: January 4, 2024

**MOTION:**

Chair Landers asked for a motion to approve the presented MCWDB Youth Committee's consent agenda. Brittany Holmes made a motion; Jessica Putton seconded the motion.

Chair Landers called for an all-in-favor vote:

**In Favor:** Liz Valdez, Tina Drews, Marie Raymond, and Brittany Holmes

**Opposed:** None

**Abstained:** None

Motion passed.

## Chairman Report.

Chair Landers will be meeting with the staff and chair members to make these meetings meaningful and impactful going forward.

## Informational/Discussion Only.

### Junior Achievement

Chair Landers introduced Dr. Jennie Clausen, Inspire Program Director, to present from Junior Achievement to share information regarding the Inspire Program. Below are highlights from this presentation.

### **Junior Achievement of Arizona**

Mission statement: Preparing Arizona kids to succeed in work and life.

Three Pillars of Junior Achievement: Career readiness, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship.

#### What we do

- Able to customize programs that are from 15 minutes to a full semester
- Junior Achievement has a 70-year history with Arizona
- Supporting strong workforce and economy
- Create strong financial foundations
- Transformative innovation
- 53% of students own their own businesses

#### Who we serve

- Arizona focused partnerships
- 7,500 volunteers annually
- Served over 170,00 K-12 students in 22-23
- Free to teachers/school/districts

#### JA Alumni

- 66% of students come from low-income households
- 68% of JA Alumni are financially independent from parents
- 69% of JA Alumni have their dream job
- 90% Ja Alumni say JA influenced the belief they could achieve their goals

#### JA Inspire

- Online career exploration program
- 9 Exhibit Halls
  - Cover 16 career pathways
- 3 Age age-appropriate platforms
- 6 Micro-Credentials
  - Accredited credential
- 3 communication/engagement badges

For more information, [jaaz.org/jainspireaz](http://jaaz.org/jainspireaz), login: [guest@inspire.gor](mailto:guest@inspire.gor)

Chair Landers thanked the presenter. Due to time restraints Chair Landers suggested follow-up questions can go in the chat or reach out directly to [jenniec@jaaz.org](mailto:jenniec@jaaz.org).

### Youth Apprenticeships

Chair Landers introduced Katelyn Harris-Lange, MCWDB In-Demand Career and Apprenticeship Strategist, to open the conversation around youth apprenticeships.

- May 5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> marks the first Youth Apprenticeship Week.
- Arizona@work 13 different apprenticeship programs are offered

- On May 8th at 10 am, a virtual regional youth apprenticeship accelerator will be offered in collaboration with Pinal County, the City of Phoenix, and the Center for the Future of Arizona.

Katelyn Harris-Lange introduced Joann Bueno from the Arizona State Office of Apprenticeship Opportunities. Unfortunately, her call dropped, and we were not able to hear her presentation.

#### Arizona Career Pathways Presentation

Chair Landers introduced Arizona Career Pathways Executive Director Stephen Sparks to provide an Arizona Careers Pathways workforce development model. Below are highlights from this presentation.

#### **Arizona Career Pathways Presentation**

Arizona Career Pathways is a nonprofit workforce training initiative of Valley Interfaith Project that partners with Maricopa Community Colleges to provide one-on-one wrap-around support services to hundreds of low-income students every year.

- Partner with Maricopa Community Colleges to provide one-on-one support and services to low-income students
- ARPA Funding
- Career Navigation Services
- Decade Long Partnership with the MCCC
- Cost of basic needs is one of the critical components
- MCCC / ACP Shared Public/Private Partnership
- High Demand Career Fields are a focus
- Average return on investment is 300%

Stephen provided his contact information for any questions or comments in the future.  
480-773-3485 / [ssparks@azcareerpathways.org](mailto:ssparks@azcareerpathways.org)

Chair Landers thanked the presenter.

#### **Call to the Public.**

Chair Landers made a call to the public for comments. No one spoke.

#### **Adjourn.**

Chair Landers adjourned the MCWDB Youth Committee meeting at 2:24 pm.

*\*For additional information, contact MCWDB staff at: [MCWDB@maricopa.gov](mailto:MCWDB@maricopa.gov)*