



1001 North 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
 Post Office Box 94094  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9094

(O) 225-342-5899  
 (F) 225-342-2051  
[www.laworks.net](http://www.laworks.net)

**John Bel Edwards**, Governor  
**Ava Cates**, Secretary

**Workforce Investment Council**

**Workforce Investment Council Meeting**

Thursday, December 16, 2021

9:30 AM

**ZOOM**

- **Executive Counsel Meridith Trahant read a portion of the La. R.S. 42:17.1 Certification:**
  - On March 11, 2020, in Executive Proclamation 25 JBE 2020, Governor John Bel Edwards declared a state of emergency for Louisiana due to COVID-19. The state of emergency was extended in subsequent Executive Proclamations with the most recent extension in 219 JBE 2021 on November 24, 2021. The state of emergency is a public health one and an in-person meeting of the WIC hosted at the Louisiana Workforce Commission would be detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of the public.
  - In accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 42:17.1, the presiding officer of the WIC, Meridith J. Trahant, hereby certifies that the agenda of the meeting is limited to 1) matters that, if they are delayed, will cause curtailment of vital public services or severe economic dislocation and hardship and 2) matters that are critical to continuation of business of the Louisiana Workforce Commission and are not able to be postponed due to other deadlines that cannot be postponed or delayed.
  - As such, in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 42:17.1, the WIC meeting on Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 9:30 AM will be held by video conference and in a manner that allows for observation and input by members of the public in accordance with the provisions of the Louisiana Open Meetings law.

**I. Call to order Call to order – Chairman Bruce Busada**

- a. Meeting called to order at 9:33am

**II. Swear in of new WIC Board Member**

- 1. Roy O. Martin III

**III. Roll call –**

**WIC Director Jawanda J Givens      Quorum: Yes      Time: 9:40am**

				16-December-21	
First Name	Last Name	Member	Designee	Designee	
Bruce	Busada	x			
Joseph	Ardoin	x			
Paul	Arrigo				
Valerie	Aymond				
Melissa	Bayham	x		Ken York	
Ada	Bell	x			
Keith W	Brand				
Cade	Brumley		x	Jessica Vallelungo	

Barbara	Carpenter			
Conrad	Carriere	x		
Jason	Cobb	x		
Ava	Cates		x	Tavares Walker
Michael	Danahay	x		
Stephen	David	x		
Jason	Dedon			
John Bel	Edwards		x	Sec. Ava Cates
Jason	Engles	x		Gary Warren
Thelma	French	x		
Larry	Frieman			
Randy	Hayden	x		
Charles "Chuck"	Henderson, Jr.			
John	Hopkins			
Edward R	Jones			
Gina	Jones			
Leigh	King			
Norisha	Kirts	x		
Kirk	LaCour	x		
James "Jimmy"	LeBlanc		x	Rhett Covington
Robert J. "Bob"	Lobos	x		
Melissa	Mann			
Roy O.	Martin III	x		
Gerry	Mims			
Brent	Moreland	x		
Susan	Nelson	x		
Barrow	Peacock			Margaret Corley
Sonia A.	Perez	x		
Don	Pierson		x	Susie Schowen
Kim	Reed		x	Lisa Williams
Louis	Reine		x	Nick Foster
Ronald	Rosser Jr.			
Tracey	Schiro	x		Missy Sparks
Richard B. "R.B."	Smith			
Joshua	Sonnier	x		James Foster
David	St. Etienne	x		
Monty	Sullivan		x	Chris Broadwater
Sandra	Thompson Herman			
Buck	Vandersteen	x		
Marketa	Walters		x	Lorrie Briggs
Thomas A.	Yura	x		
Z - Vacant	Z - Vacant			
Z- Vacant	Z - Vacant			

Z- Vacant	Z - Vacant			
Z-Vacant	Z - Vacant			

**IV. Comments from the Chairman, Bruce Busada**

- a. None

**V. Review and approval of previous minutes:**

- a. Chairman Busada would like to correct the typo in the LSU E-Listing that came before WIC to send to LOSFA.

Motion to approve minutes with correction

1<sup>st</sup> Lisa Williams

2<sup>nd</sup> Susan Nelson

No objections. No abstention. Approved.

**VI. Presentation and Review from IBCC –**

**1. PYTHON Basic Proficiency – Accelerant Certification**

- a. David St. Etienne presents the PYTHON Certification as software development tool to be considered for certification.
- b. Joshua Anderson presents. He explains that this certification allows students a pathway into high paying tech jobs.

Motion to receive and approve the report presented by IBCC Chairman David St. Etienne

1<sup>st</sup> Chris Broadwater

2<sup>nd</sup> Josh Sonnier

Abstentions: Yes       None x  
 Opposition: Yes       None x  
 Approved: Yes x      None

Unanimous vote

No public comments

**VII. Presentation from Board of Regents and LOSFA**

**a. Dr. Lisa Williams and Deborah Paul.**

- i. Dr. Williams provides the annual update. The Board of Regents (BOR) issued its Master Plan 2 years ago with an ambitious goal to double the number of those working age adults between 24-64 before 2030.
- ii. Deborah Paul presents LOSFA update. She outlined the programs currently funded. The MJ Foster Promise Program is to go into effect in 2022.

**VIII. Presentation from LCTCS – Louisiana Foster’s Promise Program Update**

- a. Chris Broadwater and Amy Cable
- b. Dr. Amy Cable states that the MJ Foster Promise Program pays to retrain adult workers. It is a \$10.5 million annual investment program administered by LOSFA that provides financial aid for tuition and fees for up to 3 years. It can be used for academic and non-credit credentials that align to high-demand jobs in 5 growing industry sectors. The first class starts July 2022
- c. Chris Broadwater will send the rules to WIC members.
- d. Secretary Cates notes that the rules are made according to federal guidelines. The federal guidelines push WIOA to be more focused towards on-the-job training once an individual enters the workforce. Additional credentialing can happen in the workplace.

**IX. Presentation from Corrections – Training Updates**

**a. Rhett Covington and Kelsey Osman**

**X. Other Business**

**A. Meeting Dates 2022:** to be sent out in email

1. 1/18/22
2. 4/19/22
3. 7/19/22
4. 10/18/22

**XI. Public Comments**

- a. None

**XII. Adjournment**

- a. Motion to adjourn
  - i. 1<sup>st</sup> Rhett Covington
  - ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> Chris Broadwater
- b. Meeting adjourned at 11:23am

*Minutes submitted by: Kandice Doley*

*Minutes approved by: Quorum of WIC meeting on January 18, 2022*