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**Jeff Landry**, Governor  
**Susana Schowen**, Secretary

## Workforce Investment Council

# Workforce Investment Council Meeting

Date: 2/18/2025  
10:00AM – 12:00PM

State Capitol  
Governor's Press Room-4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
900 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

## I. Call to order

a. Chairman David Helveston @10:10 am

## II. Roll call –

**WIC Director Kaffia Arvie      Quorum: Yes      Time:10:10 am**

| First Name    | Last Name    | Member | Designee | Designee           |
|---------------|--------------|--------|----------|--------------------|
| Terry         | Baugh        |        |          |                    |
| Melissa       | Bayham       | ✓      |          |                    |
| Troy          | Borne        |        | ✓        | Jessica Vallelungo |
| Ellis         | Bourque, III | ✓      |          |                    |
| Mayor Michael | Danahay      |        |          |                    |
| Mark          | Dearman      |        |          |                    |
| Jason         | Dedon        |        |          |                    |
| Renee'        | DeLouche     | ✓      |          |                    |
| Rep. Phillip  | DeVillier    |        |          |                    |
| Chelsea       | Dufrene      | ✓      | ✓        | Mark Bond          |
| Mayor Friday  | Ellis        |        |          |                    |
| Jason         | Engels       | ✓      |          |                    |
| Connie        | Fabre        |        | ✓        | Brandon Smith      |
| Gregory       | Feirn        | ✓      |          |                    |
| David         | Gaines       | ✓      |          |                    |
| Stacey        | Gautreau     |        |          |                    |
| David         | Helveston    | ✓      |          |                    |
| Dr. Kim       | Hunter-Reed  |        | ✓        | Dr. Lisa Vosper    |
| Jay           | Johnson      | ✓      |          |                    |

|              |             |   |   |                   |
|--------------|-------------|---|---|-------------------|
| Dr. Chandler | Leboeuf     |   | ✓ | Amy Cable         |
| Roy          | Martin, III | ✓ |   |                   |
| Sec. David   | Matlock     |   | ✓ | Katrina Moses     |
| Terri        | Mitchell    | ✓ |   |                   |
| Neil         | Rader       | ✓ |   |                   |
| Louis        | Reine       | ✓ |   |                   |
| Tina         | Roper       | ✓ |   |                   |
| Kyle         | Ruckert     | ✓ |   |                   |
| Sec. Susan   | Schowen     | ✓ |   |                   |
| Sen. Alan    | Seabaugh    |   |   |                   |
| David        | St. Etienne |   |   |                   |
| Michael      | Tanner      |   | ✓ | Douglas Summerlin |
| Buck         | Vandersteen |   | ✓ | Jeff Zeringue     |
| Suane        | Villavaso   |   |   |                   |
| Tom          | Yura        |   |   |                   |

### III. Review and approval of previous minutes

#### a. Motion to approve/deny the minutes

1. 1<sup>st</sup> . Louis Reine
2. 2<sup>nd</sup>- Jason Engles
3. Unanimous vote-All Passed

### IV. Louisiana Department of Education Updates

#### a. Presented by Jessica Vallelango

1. Jessica spoke on the intern like opportunity for high school students that once was called DECA & COE. This will be a paid intern-like program that will be paid by the school and/or the employer. This program will be to provide a positive mindset towards the workforce industry.
  - a. This program would be 107 hours coupled with 26 hours of classroom time.
  - b. There will be a linkage of career pathways and the job that they are currently working.
2. There will be an 8 year stand up period that will go into effect Fall 2026.

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  - a. A list of youth workers for workforce is needed.
    - b. LED & the workforce boards are to be on 1 accord so that we can go beyond the employer and engage other employers.
  - Louis Reine suggestion
    - a. Please make sure the employers know the Do's & Don'ts concerning the child labor laws.
- v. Comments from Chairman David Helveston
  - a. **Chairman Helveston announced that the next WIC meeting will be on 4/8/2025, which is the week before the legislation begins.**
  - b. **He also mentioned to be prepared for a discussion concerning the legislation on the next meeting's agenda.**
- vi. Report from the Louisiana Workforce and Social Services Reform Task Force by Secretary Schowen
  - a. **Building Tomorrow's Workforce**
    - i. All boils down to driving the economic growth
      1. Without welders, healthcare workers, and computer scientists, we will not experience the economic growth needed.
      2. WIOA was not authorized in congress, therefore WIC members may be called upon to get what's needed.
    - ii. Creating that 1 door model.
      1. Building maps where LWC & DCFS offices are. Challenges has been identified and the committee has worked very hard, however there are a few state barriers. There are smaller workgroups to help bridge the gaps
      2. This 1 door model will tie those receiving benefits from social services to getting to work.
- VII. Discussion and Approval of the TOPS Tech Eligible List: Academic Programs that are Vocation/Workforce-Focused
  - a. Presented by Dr. Lisa Vosper & Dr. Amy Cable
    - i. Tops Tech

1. Lowest funded
2. Designed for 2 year institutions or colleges and universities that offer 2 year degrees.

ii. Act 230

1. There are benefits to offering for credit and non-credit
  - a. A student can use MJ Foster Grant and Tops Tech to merge together to have a higher pot of funding.

iii. State Plan

1. The state plan must be updated every 4 years.
  - a. There is currently a plan in affect at this time.

**VIII. Other Business**

**IX. Public Comment**

**X. Adjournment at 11:45am**

- a. **1<sup>st</sup> – Tina Roper**
- b. **2<sup>nd</sup> –Jason Engles**