The Governor’s Workforce Development Board Welcomes Today’s Speakers

Carol Pankow, Assistant Commissioner for Workforce Services
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DEED)

DEED’s workforce services division helps individuals overcome barriers to employment and develop job skills by providing a range of programs and services for laid-off and unemployed individuals.

In this role, Carol Pankow will lead DEED’s workforce services for Unemployment Insurance, Disability Determination Services, Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS), and the State Services for the Blind (SSB). Pankow will also focus on growing our state’s talent market and maximizing the potential of workers who face physical disadvantages to employment.

Pankow brings more than three decades of professional experience working with the disability community. She started in the mid-1980s as a human services technician at the Faribault Regional Center developmental disability program. She later managed statewide vocational and senior supports at the Minnesota Department of Human Services, led a non-profit day training and habilitation organization, and served as Director of the Vocational Rehabilitation Unit at the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry.

Pankow holds a master’s degree in management of rehabilitation services from DePaul University in Chicago and a B.S. from Mankato State University. She also serves as president of the National Council of State Agencies for the Blind and Committee Chair of the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Jodie Greising, Director, Minnesota Job Skills Partnership
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Jodie Greising has 25 years of experience working in the areas of business and workforce development, during which time she has helped establish several workforce development programs. Her office currently administers four programs that provide grants aimed at building partnerships between business and education, and providing training to workers for skills that are in demand by Minnesota’s businesses.

The Minnesota Jobs Skills Partnership (MJSP) works with businesses, educational institutions and nonprofit organizations to train or retrain workers, expand work opportunities and keep high-quality jobs in the state. The goal is to target short-term training for full-time employment in the growth sectors of the state’s economy. Grants, through a variety of programs, offset training-related expenses incurred by business, industry, nonprofit organizations and educational institutions to meet Minnesota’s current and future workforce needs.

Jeralyn Jargo, State Director of Career Technical Education
MINNESOTA STATE

Jeralyn Jargo is based at the System Office of Minnesota State. In partnership with the Minnesota Department of Education, she assists the state’s 26 consortia in preparing and improving Career and Technical educational programs to serve secondary and postsecondary students; serves as Career and Technical Education (CTE) liaison for state and national initiatives, legislation, and policy; and is responsible for the appropriate use of the Carl D. Perkins state award of federal grant funds.

Her involvement in career and technical education spans multiple decades of work throughout Minnesota. Jargo has held many jobs in education including teaching secondary and postsecondary students, creating programs of study in healthcare, manufacturing, and technology, serving as an academic dean for a two-year college, and as the vice president of advancement and innovation. Much of her work entails innovation, and mentoring new leaders as they navigate between public and private worlds. Her formal education occurred at the University of Iowa, the University of North Dakota, and Saint Mary’s University, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Lorrie Janatopoulos, Director of CareerForce
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DEED)

Led by a network of private, public and nonprofit partners throughout Minnesota, CareerForce guides people toward rewarding careers, connects individuals to employment opportunities, and provides valuable economic and employment development information to employers.

DEED’s CareerForce team manages and executes the direct services efforts of workforce development. Lorrie’s responsibilities include managing the physical and digital CareerForce resources at DEED that are focused on providing direct services to job seekers in Minnesota.

A native of Greater Minnesota, Janatopoulos brings more than two decades of work experience in the nonprofit sector. She started in the mid-1990s as a housing planner at the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency in Virginia and was later promoted to the role of planning director, a job she held for 16 years. Most recently, Janatopoulos assisted the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation with strategic planning, and worked at Hibbing Community College helping women achieve education and career goals.

Prior to her new role at DEED, Janatopoulos was an active member of the Governor’s Workforce Development Board and served on its Operations Committee and Racial Equity Committee.

Janatopoulos holds a master’s degree in public affairs from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. In 2016, Janatopoulos was named a Bush Foundation Fellow and completed a series of leadership training courses at Harvard as part of her fellowship.

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