

Governor's Workforce Development Board (GWDB)

Quarterly Report

2nd Quarter, April 2026 – June 2026

Staff Hires

During Q2, the GWDB welcomed Sky Bramel as Meetings and Events Administrative Specialist. Sky provides administrative support for GWDB and IWA meetings, as well as GWDB events. At the beginning of Q3, Nicole Hochsprung joined the team as Policy and Strategy Advisor. Nicole is coordinating the state plan modification timeline and providing policy and strategy support for GWDB-identified priorities.

Powering Climate and Infrastructure Careers (PCIC) Grant

GWDB staff continue to make progress on the Powering Climate and Infrastructure Careers (PCIC) grant by leading job quality initiatives that support grant deliverables in collaboration with the GWDB Sector Partnerships Committee. Staff are partnering with DEED's Labor Market Information (LMI) team to research and lay the foundation for regional climate and infrastructure workforce reports, which will be released in early 2027. GWDB staff additionally supported the Minnesota Indigenous Energy and Workforce Initiative's May stakeholder meeting, which focused on refining the initiative's priority focus areas as planning continues.

Workforce Pell

GWDB and OHE staff attended the National Governors Association's Workforce Pell Academy in May, representing Minnesota in a panel discussion on the state's policy development process. The final Minnesota Workforce Pell Program Determination policy was approved by the GWDB at the Q3 meeting, and the Office of Higher Education launched the provider application period in June. Applications are open until August 15.

Executive Committee Updates

Chair: Surya Iyer; Vice Chair: DeLinda Washington

During the quarter, the Executive Committee engaged legislators regarding H.F. No. 3732, the Workforce Development Fund Governance Proposal. In an April 21 letter, the committee supported the bill's goals of strengthening accountability, transparency, and strategic alignment and moving toward a competitive, criteria-based process for Workforce Development Fund investments.

GWDB Committee Activities

Innovative Service Delivery Committee

Interim Chair: Scott Cummings

The committee focused this quarter on identifying opportunities to strengthen Minnesota's labor market information infrastructure through several targeted activities. Members reviewed proposals to improve workforce data collection, including requiring employers selected for the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics survey to participate and adding job titles and employment start dates to unemployment insurance wage records. The committee also provided feedback on how DEED's labor market information tools can be made more accessible and useful to employers, job seekers, educators, and workforce partners. Members approved an updated committee charter that places greater emphasis on digital equity, access to in-person services, and consistent statewide service delivery metrics.

Following Misun Bormann's resignation from the Board, Scott Cummings began serving as interim chair. The committee identified OEWS and enhanced wage records as priority recommendations for further development in Q3, alongside work on overlooked-worker metrics and the CareerForce performance framework.

State and Local Coordination Committee

Chair: Rob Stark; Co-Chair: Cate Duin

The committee focused this quarter on improving coordination, governance, and performance across Minnesota's workforce system while establishing priorities for future committee work.

Members approved an updated committee charter to clarify the committee's purpose, responsibilities, and areas of focus. They also considered the development of a CareerForce performance framework and reviewed a proposed State Workforce Development Board membership waiver that would allow the DEED Commissioner to fulfill the Board's Title IV vocational rehabilitation representation requirement. The waiver recommendation was approved by the full Board at its May 27, 2026, meeting. The committee also identified statewide priorities to develop a work-based learning

framework and clarify state, regional, and local responsibilities through a statewide workforce governance framework. In the upcoming quarter, the committee will review proposed workforce performance metrics to support the Board’s statewide coordination and oversight role under Minn. Stat. § 116L.665, subd. 4.

Sector Partnerships Committee

Chair: Matt Lewis

The committee reviewed and approved the 2026-27 Workforce Pell Program Determination Policy prior to its release for public comment and final approval by the full board on May 27. In addition, the committee began exploring potential updates to how Minnesota defines and evaluates in-demand occupations and sectors, including examining data considerations, statewide alignment needs and implications for workforce strategy. The committee initiated discussions on its role in developing and reviewing legislative recommendations for inclusion in the 2027 GWDB Legislative Report.

Statewide Workforce Development Strategy

Interagency Workforce Alignment Task Force & GWDB Joint Committees

Caring Professions Subcommittee

Activity across the IWA Caring Professions workstream leadership team and full committee centered on advancing implementation of approved recommendations, strengthening cross-agency collaboration through the creation of an external SharePoint site, passing the Work-Based Learning recommendation, and advancing the Registered Nurse (RN) Apprenticeships recommendation.

During the quarter, the full Board approved all three of the subcommittee’s recommendations: advancing a data sharing agreement between MDH and OHE to incorporate Nursing Assistant Registry data into SLEDs for employment outcomes, establishing an annual Celebrate Caring Careers Month through a gubernatorial proclamation, and aligning state workforce communications across DEED, DHS, and MDH around CaringCareersStartHere.com.

Looking ahead, the subcommittee will finalize implementation plans for the Celebrate Caring Careers Month and CaringCareersStartHere.com recommendations and begin developing implementation plans for incorporating Nursing Assistant Registry data into SLEDs and advancing the Work-Based Learning recommendation.

Education

During the April–June reporting period, the Education Committee moved from foundational planning into formal recommendation development. The Explore, Become, and Grow & Thrive subcommittees refined their priorities and completed ten Round 1 working draft recommendations that address:

educator recruitment and public awareness, preparation pathways and financial barriers, mentorship and affinity supports, long-term career development, flexible leadership opportunities, early childhood workforce sustainability and educator retention. Education Leadership and staff also established a common recommendation format, timeline and structured process for committee review and refinement. Round 1 draft materials were submitted by June 30 for compilation. There will be feedback in the upcoming quarter, with final revisions and formal committee consideration planned for August.