

Governor's Workforce Development Board Chair & Vice Chair Quarterly Report

4th Quarter, October - December 2024

GWDB Chair & Vice Chair Activities

- **GWDB Chair:** Surya Iyer, President & COO of Polar Semiconductor, participated along with GWDB Director Katie McClelland in the National Governors Association (NGA) Governors Apprenticeship Innovation Summit in Phoenix, Arizona on Tuesday, November 19. Hosted in partnership with Cognizant and in celebration of National Apprenticeship Week, the Summit brought together Governors' advisors, employers, federal partners, and other key stakeholders to exchange best practices for expanding apprenticeship in priority industries.
- **GWDB Vice Chair:** DeLinda Washington, Senior Vice President and Chief People Officer, HealthPartners along with GWDB Director Katie McClelland attended the NGA Fall 2024 Workforce Development Policy Institute October 30 – November 1, 2024, hosted by the Workforce Development and Economic Policy team at the NGA Center for Best Practices. The Institute brought together Governors' Workforce Development Policy Advisors, the National Association of State Liaisons for Workforce Development Partnerships, and the National Association of State Workforce Board Chairs, will offer an opportunity for state workforce development leaders to share challenges and best practices while engaging with subject matter experts and policymakers across all levels of government.

GWDB Staff Activities

- **Staffing Update:** Nolan Thomas has transitioned into an expanded role within the GWDB as our new Engagement Specialist, replacing Kay Kammen. In this position, Nolan will serve as the primary day-to-day point of contact for our committees, providing comprehensive support and coordination across multiple initiatives. Nolan is managing GWDB Committee operations, ensuring seamless communication and effective execution of committee goals. Additionally, Nolan will continue to support critical re-entry work through the PROWD grant administered by the Department of Labor.
- **America Achieves Governance Peer Learning Convening:** In December 2024 Katie McClelland participated in the Greater MSP Peer Learning cohort along with partners from Minnesota State Colleges and Universities in Washington, DC. America Achieves is leading this work in partnership with Brookings Institution to help regions answer structural questions of their industry partnerships. Nearly a dozen regions (e.g. Philly, New Orleans, Milwaukee/Madison, Miami, etc.) with some kind of major federal

designations or awards among Build Back Better, Tech Hubs, NSF Engines, and CHIPS are participating in the Peer Learning Cohort. Learnings from this work will be applied to the state's emerging sector partnership strategy.

- **CHIPS Workforce Partnership Quarterly Meeting:** In October the GWDB supported the fall CHIPS Workforce Partnership Meeting. As part of this meeting DEED provided additional information about the Minnesota Forward Fund (MFF) workforce training funding opportunities. Applications are due March 15 for any MFF workforce funds. Questions about MFF should be directed to Jessica Miller at Jessica.Miller@state.mn.us.
- **MACTA CTE Fellows:** In November Katie McClelland joined GWDB Member Troy Haugen, Director of Career & College Readiness for Lakes Country Service Coops, to speak to MACTA Policy & Leadership Fellowship (Minnesota Association for Career and Technical Administrators), and the Minnesota Education Policy Fellowship (MN EPF) during their day at the Capitol to talk about the work of the GWDB.
- **NGA Service-to-Career Pathways Policy Academy:** In December Minnesota was selected to participate in the NGA Service-to-Career Pathways Policy Academy. In partnership with the Schultz Family Foundation and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) is launching a Policy Academy to support states and territories in developing service-to-career pathways as a pathway of economic opportunity in key sectors for young people, especially from historically underrepresented or marginalized communities. Minnesota's team includes representatives from the Governor's Office, DEED, MN Department of Education, and Minnesota's State Service Commission ServeMN. The team will receive support to execute their proposed scope of work; participate in a technical assistance curriculum designed to meet the needs of the Policy Academy cohort; and engage in multiple virtual and in-person peer learning opportunities.
- **NGA SNAP E&T Policy Academy:** The State of Minnesota has been a participant in the National Governor's Association/Seattle Job's Initiative (SJI) SNAP E&T Policy Academy that began in July 2024 and is concluding at the end of February 2025. The focus of the work for Minnesota was to make time with policy leaders within the state and from NGA/SJI to:
 - Increase SNAP student eligibility. The focus was to have a better understanding of the SNAP student eligibility and any distinctions between the State of Minnesota law and federal law.
 - Identify the services and supports available to SNAP E&T participants. Our goal is to create an awareness and understanding of the services and

supports and how they might be able to be braided together for the SNAP E&T participant.

- Through our participation we have learned how other states implement the above actions so we may be able to implement in MN. The MN team is lead by Alicia Smith, Deputy Director with Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), and involves partner participation from DCYF, GWDB, and DEED. The tight knit team increased our awareness of the program areas, we work within for ideas on how to share this knowledge with others.
- **New American Talent Initiative (NATI) Pilot:** In the fall of 2023, a Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) Group that began meeting with partner participation from Office of Higher Education (OHE), Minn State, and DEED. The meetings were led by Director Katie McClelland and partners shared an interest in addressing some of the interagency barriers to new Americans residing in Minnesota and seeking to continue their careers established in their countries of origin. In June 2024, Sonji Davis, Workforce Coordinator with the GWDB on behalf of the Office for New American (ONA) submitted a grant proposal to the MSJP Board to fund this project. The request was approved, and ONA has 3 years to develop and implement the following task deliverables:
 - Four career pathway assessments in Engineering, Education, IT, and Healthcare.
 - Language assessments
 - Cross functional training and toolkit for service providers and educational institutions
 - A build out of ONA's web page
 - The CPL Group has taken on new partners in developing this initiative: Office of Refugee Resettlement, Adult Basic Education, and The International Institute.
- **Minnesota MedTech 3.0 Tech Hubs Federal Site Visit:** In October the U.S. Department of Commerce traveled to Minnesota to take part in a site visit of Minnesota's Tech Hub called Minnesota MedTech 3.0. GWDB Director Katie McClelland co-facilitated the Workforce Development roundtable with GreaterMSP's Matt Lewis.
- **Quarterly WIOA Program Admin Meeting:** The GWDB convened WIOA Program Administrators on a quarterly basis. This group is made up of agency leadership and program administrators who are aligned with WIOA Titles: Dislocated Worker, Adult, and Youth; Wagner Peyser, Vocational Rehabilitation, State Services for the Blind, and Adult Education. These Titles and other state partners – Perkins V Career Technical Education, Supplemental Nutrition and Assistance Program Employment & Training (SNAP E&T), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

GWDB Committee Activities

Advanced Manufacturing Subcommittee met Monday, November 6, 2024.

Mission: Define and strengthen Minnesota Manufacturing Resources, and bring awareness of those resources to prospective workforce.

Objectives:

- a. Inventory (successful) programs, systems, schools, resources (identify partners, world-wide)
2. Make connections, expand state-wide, duplicate
3. Engage/Inspire prospective workforce and bring awareness to these resources (to students, Career shifters, parents, educators, under-represented groups)
4. Ensure state agencies/legislature are aligned and supporting these resources (not hindering our progress, needs)

2025 GWDB Manufacturing subcommittee meeting is scheduled at 11am-12.30pm:

1. Feb 1
2. June 6
3. Sept 5
4. Nov 7