



Business Engagement Committee Accomplishments, September – November 2023

Charge:

- The charge of the BEC is to provide guidance and direction to help bridge the gap between Illinois' important business sectors and employers, and the Illinois workforce development system.

Priorities:

- Enhance and support the development of regional industry-led sector partnerships.
- Developing compelling messages that respond to employer needs.
- Identifying and employing effective methods of communication to employers.
- Improving data and information regarding business engagement.

Leadership: Co-Chairs

- Jess Giudici, jess.giudici@duravant.com, Duravant Corp.
- Andrew Warrington, andrewwarrington@uccenvironmental.com, UCC Environmental, Inc.

Q4 Accomplishments and Progress Toward Workplan:

- The BEC examined the Illinois Employment Business System (IEBS) through a presentation by and discussion with Patti Schnoor of DCEO.
 - This activity came within the context of the Committee's search for a means of collecting data around current and future business engagement efforts (i.e., Priority #4 above).





- The next developmental phase of IEBS will be concentrated on increasing the business outreach functionality of the project. This would include tools to better track employer engagement across all of the partners, but it is unclear if this alone would suffice for the BEC's measurement focus.
- Also discussed was the Illinois Workforce Integration System (IWIS), which will track information directly under the apprenticeship expansion grant. IWIS will also be used by the Unified Business Services Teams to track business engagement of all types. While it will likely need to be coordinated with information from IEBS and any locally-used Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system, it does appear that IWIS might fill the need for an overall business engagement measurement system.
- Additionally, the Industry Partnerships Work Group met during this quarter to continue their work on several projects meant to assist in the promulgation of partnerships and Talent Pipeline Management (TPM).
 - These and other activities related to Priority #1 will now be taken up by the full committee.
- The committee also began a consideration of specific tasks and projects in order to fulfill its priorities.
 - Some tasks might implement products previously developed by the committee:
 - Unified System Message to Employers
 - Industry Partnership Sector Champion
 - Industry Partnership CEO Presentation
 - Some products which might be developed by the committee in the future:
 - Specific Employer Messages
 - By Sector
 - By Region
 - By Size





- By Employer Needs
- Communication Mechanisms
 - Videos
 - Social Media
 - Coordination with Apprenticeship Illinois Committee
- To that last dot point, the committee had a conversation with the Chair and lead staff of the Apprenticeship Illinois Committee to kick off discussions around coordinating employer outreach and marketing.
- The committee also had a discussion with the Chair and lead staff of the CPTP, as that Committee's Justice-Impacted Employment Workgroup was seeking feedback from businesses and other employers regarding their work.

