

APPRENTICE AMBASSADOR WORKGROUP MEETING

Date: March 13, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Location: Online

Room: ZOOM



Members Present: Terry Stroh, Taylor Black, Sheree Speakman, Sheryl Morris, Jan Keresztes, Craig Schmidt, Daniel Serota, Danielle Kuglin-Seago

Members Absent: Anthony Fuhrman, Lazaro Lopez, Sean Glowacz, Corey Young

Support Staff: Antonio Gomez, Jordan Johnson, Jennifer Foil, Coryn Barger

Quorum: 6

Majority of Quorum: 4

Time	Item
	<p>Roll Call of Members and Approval of Previous Minutes</p> <p>Antonio Gomez called the meeting to order and provided a review of the agenda for the group. A quorum was determined to be present.</p>
1:00	<p>Gomez called for a motion to approve the February 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Sheree Speakman called for a motion to approve the February 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Terry Stroh seconded the motion. All present workgroup members voted in the affirmative. The motion carries. The February 2025 Apprentice Ambassador Workgroup meeting minutes stand approved as presented.</p>
	<p>Last-Minute Kick-Off Items</p> <p>Gomez asked the group if there were any last-minute details that they would like to discuss before the Kick-Off Event.</p>
1:05	<p>Sheryl Morris stated that she felt confident that the event was well-planned and would go well. Morris noted that she would like to ensure that ambassadors would be present in setting goals and working towards those goals with their mentors. Additionally, Morris noted that she would like to see a more developed relationship between ambassadors and their supervisors/managers/directors around what those goals look like for their professional development within their companies.</p>

Time	Item
	<p>Gomez provided a review of the finalized Kick-Off Agenda and noted that due to a setback in securing Microsoft, there was an open spot on the agenda. Daniel Serota was gracious enough to fill in and will provide a networking session.</p>
	<p>2024 Ambassador Survey Results</p>
	<p>Gomez provided a review of the 2024 Ambassador Survey Results for the group.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responses were received from David Jaeger, Amy Hamilton, Chrissy McNulty, Michael Chiappetta, Cody Myles, Kendis Draw, and Morgan Arnold. - Overall, ambassadors and employers were generally very satisfied with the program.
1:20	<p>Regarding program improvement, Ambassadors suggested hosting more events to spread awareness to career seekers, with a focus on high schools and minoritized populations. Additionally, ambassadors suggested that more networking opportunities would be helpful to the program. Finally, ambassadors suggested providing clear directions on reimbursement as well as eliminating the need for apprentices to take care of expenses up front.</p>
	<p>Regarding program improvement, employers suggested providing an outline of events for the year as well as providing more hybrid options.</p>
	<p>Gomez noted that most respondents felt that their investment in the program was worthwhile and stated that several also expressed interest in becoming peer mentors or guest speakers for future events.</p>
	<p>Gomez opened the floor for questions and comments.</p>
	<p>Sheryl Morris thanked Mr. Terry Stroh for his breakout session during one of the professional development sessions with Director Kristin Richards.</p>
	<p>June PD Session</p>
1:40	<p>Ideas for speakers for the employer panel?</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gomez suggested contacting Andrew Warrington and Steven Lefaver as possible speakers.

Time

Item

- Morris suggested that it may be beneficial to utilize some of the employers with ambassadors in the program to show the impact that it is having on their company.
 - Gomez suggested David Yaeger
- Serota suggested including employers who are on the cusp of creating their own programs to give them more exposure and opportunity.
- Serota will reach out to Avoq, the public relations training provider.

Ideas for speakers on soft skills?

- There were none.

Virtual or in person?

- Gomez suggested that holding a virtual meeting may make it easier for more people to attend.

A full or half day?

- Gomez suggested a four-hour slot with a break.
- Serota suggested allowing the content and quality of speakers to dictate the timeslot that the workgroup decides on.

Daniel Serota suggested that it would be helpful to have a speaker (such as the chair of the workforce committee or an individual from the Governor's Office) with a state perspective speak to the value of apprenticeship as well as the opportunities provided by apprenticeship. Serota stated that this would draw attendance and promote the idea that the state is supportive of the Ambassador Program.

- Jordan noted that there was consideration to ask Mr. Julio Rodriguez to present on the system.

Jordan asked if this workgroup was considering the same audience and attendance for the June Professional Development as they are for the Kick-Off Event.

- Morris noted that her interest is to support ambassadors in gaining professional development while also gaining a return on investment for employers.

Time	Item
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Kuglin-Seago shared concerns regarding the split of focus, stating that keeping the two groups separate would allow young apprentices and ambassadors to feel confident and competent to speak to the things that are expected of them by this workgroup.- Keresztes suggested creating two separate breakout groups.
<hr/> Public Comment	
1:55	Antonio Gomez called for public comment. There was none.
<hr/> Adjournment	
2:00	The meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.