

COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CASE) COMMUNICATIONS WORK GROUP



Date: Thursday, October 16, 2025 **Time:** 2:00 pm

Location: Zoom

Members Present: David Gallagher, Mitch Dickey, Kristie Conklin, Lavon Nelson, Kara Demirjian Huss, Christine Caves, Kraig Kistingner, Biswa Phuyla, Tony Fuhrmann, Alex Purcell

Members Absent: Jess Wright

Guests: Ms. Michelle Sebasco

Co-Chair: Tony Fuhrmann, Madison County
Employment & Training

Co- Chair: Mitch Dickey – TRANSFR Inc.

Kara Demirjian Huss – TCCI Manufacturing/DCC
Marketing, IWIB CASE
Committee, Chair

Alex Purcell – United IWIB CASE
Committee, Vice Chair

Jess Wright – Duravant – **MEDICAL LEAVE**

Kraig Kistingner – National Tube Supply

Christine Caves – Quad City Chamber

Biswa Puhya – IDHS/DRS

Lavon Nelson – ICCB

Kristie Conklin - Commonwealth Edison

STAFF: Kiersten Baer, ISU-ICSPS, David
Gallagher, Christy Montgomery

Staff Support: Coryn Barger

Time	Item	Presenter
2:00 PM	Welcome & Quroum Co-Chairperson Mitch Dickey welcomed the group and provided a review of the final agenda for the October 16, 2025, CASE Committee Communications Workgroup Meeting.	Mitch Dickey / Tony Fuhrmann
2:05 PM	Minutes Co-Chairperson Mitch Dickey called for a motion to approve the August 2025 Communications Workgroup Meeting Minutes as presented. Ms. Lavon Nelson made a motion to approve. Ms. Christine Caves seconded the motion. All present members voted in the affirmative. The motion carries. The August 2025 CASE Committee Communications Workgroup Meeting Minutes stand approved as presented.	Mitch Dickey / Tony Fuhrmann

Time	Item	Presenter
2:10 PM	Relationship Inventory – Current Status Co-Chairperson Mitch Dickey thanked everyone who has added information into the Relationship Inventory. Mr. Dickey reiterated for the group that the Relationship Inventory is currently limited to three key areas including Manufacturing, Healthcare and Construction. Workgroup members were asked to brainstorm and give feedback regarding changes, edits, or additions that they would like to see. Next Steps: - Mr. Dickey and Ms. Baer will share the Relationships Inventory document out to all committee members for the purposes of further populating the document as well as gaining feedback. - Ms. Christine Caves will contact Mr. Dave Boulay to ask him to assist in populating the manufacturing industry contacts section of the inventory. Regarding the use of the Relationship Inventory, Mr. Dickey stated that creating a Strategic Plan will be necessary to outline how individuals should utilize the information provided. Mr. Dickey suggested holding a Business Track with three breakout sessions during the Illinois Workforce Summit to allow workforce board members, business services teams, etc. to join an in-depth conversation about what is happening in each key industry and how industry-sector partnerships can be built. Additionally, Mr. Dickey suggested holding a cocktail hour or dinner for those attending the breakout sessions to allow further networking and discussion. Mr. Dickey noted that he would work on developing an outline for these Workforce Summit Sessions for workgroup members to review during the next meeting. Questions for consideration include: - How to build partnerships collaboratively together? - How to start collaborations from the ground up? - How do you engage the workforce system as a tool?	Mitch Dickey

Time	Item	Presenter
	Following the discussion during the November meeting, decisions will be taken to the Professional Development Committee for final approval.	
2:30	Illinois Workforce Summit- Save the Date, Registration, RFP, Hotel Block Ms. Kiersten Baer noted that the Illinois Workforce Summit Dates, Registration Link, and Hotel Block information are currently on the website. Additionally, Ms. Baer stated that there is a form for request for presentation included on the website so that individuals can request to present on behalf of their respective organizations.	Kiersten Baer
2:35	Illinois Workforce Summit Session – Relationship Inventory Workgroup members discussed the theme for the upcoming Workforce Summit, which is “Empower, Excel, Engage.” - Ms. Lavon Nelson highlighted employer engagement and funding as key issues for discussion. Ms. Christine Caves suggested coaching local workforce development offices on leveraging social media and other tools to promote their programs and connect with industry organizations. - This approach will be further discussed during the November meeting.	Mitch Dickey/ Tony Fuhrmann
2:55 PM	Public Comment & Questions Co-Chairperson Mitch Dickey opened the floor for public comment. Ms. Michelle Sebasco suggested the subject of non-traditional apprenticeship as a possible topic for the Summit. - Co-Chairperson Fuhrmann stated that there is typically an apprenticeship track featured each year at the Summit.	Mitch Dickey/ Tony Fuhrmann
3:00 PM	Adjournment Co-Chairperson Mitch Dickey called for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Christine Caves made a motion to adjourn. Co-Chairperson Tony Fuhrmann seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.	Mitch Dickey / Tony Fuhrmann

Time	Item	Presenter
	NEXT Communications Workgroup Meeting: 2 PM – 3 PM December 18th IWIB Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Committee Meetings: 9 AM- 10 AM November 20th	

Project Timeline:

- July 17th – Approving Logic Model & Outlining First Steps for Relationship Inventory
- August 21st – Progress of Relationship Model & Starting Value Proposition
- September 18th – Finish Value Proposition & Review Drafts of Communications (Value propositions Communications) & Starting Outreach for Relationship Inventory