



Division of Higher Education

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Jacob Oliva
Secretary

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Commissioner

Minutes

State Board of Private Career Education Arkansas Division of Higher Education – Meeting by Zoom Wednesday, March 27, 2024 – 11:00 a.m.

Members Present: Alice Obenshain, Brock Thompson, Jack Avery, Jacqueline Brownell

Others Present: Julie Chavis, Alana Colburn, Tracye McKeown, Kristen Shryock, Jamie LaFave

Welcome and Approval of Minutes of the January 23, 2024, Meeting

Chair Alice Obenshain asked for a motion to approve the January 23, 2024, minutes. Brock Thompson made a motion. Jack Avery seconded the motion. All were in favor. The minutes were approved.

Report of Private Career Education Work at ADHE

Alana Colburn reported that 51 transcript requests had been fulfilled since the last Board meeting in January.

Ms. Colburn informed the Board that the Eastern College of Health Vocations' student records have been converted to digital format and the original records have been shredded. Ms. Colburn said the cost to digitize the records was \$12,653.

Ms. Colburn said that in response to the Board's question in the January board meeting concerning the Student Protection Fund account balance, there is a balance of \$1,258,776.

Ms. Colburn said the student complaint against a Private Career Education school has been resolved. Ms. Colburn thanked the Attorney General's office for the help they provided with the student complaint.

Ms. Colburn informed the Board that all Private Career Education school licenses expire on May 31, 2024, and renewals would begin in April. Ms. Colburn said there would be a renewed emphasis this year on getting data on enrollment numbers in Private Career schools and Kristen Shryock would explain to the Board why there is an emphasis on reporting that data. Ms. Colburn said in the request to schools for license renewals and fees the report for enrollment numbers for the past two years would be included.

Establishing the Statewide Credential Registry, Kristen Shryock

Chair Alice Obenshain introduced Kristen Shryock, Chief Skills Strategy Officer, Transformation and Shared Services, Division of Information Systems who gave an overview of new workforce strategies and policies. Ms. Shryock said when they started to implement new workforce strategies and policies, they realized there was a significant amount of data involved when talking about skill-based hiring and skill-based learning and having one shared statewide platform for job seekers. Ms. Shryock commented that they want to be able to equip Arkansans with skills they have learned and better match them to employers and that the entire credential landscape should be evaluated to determine what credentials are currently offered in the state. Ms. Shryock added that there are challenges for the data team including questions about what programs to take, where to establish new schools and new programs, and employers want to know if someone has the skills needed based on their credentials. Ms. Shryock said they are working with the non-profit Credential Engine to establish a statewide credential registry that makes all information accessible to anyone and allows providers to upload information about their programs. Credential Engine works with 40 other states and has an existing registry with thousands of credentials, skills, and courses and they are working to add Arkansas programs. Ms. Shryock added that Private Career Education schools can add their programs to the registry according to the data about their programs. The following data is in the registry:

- Organization
- Credentials Offered
- Learning Opportunities
- Competencies
- Assessments
- Support Services
- Financial Assistant
- Transfer Value
- Outcomes Data
- Jobs, Occupations, and Pathways

Ms. Shryock said they want to market schools and their programs to Arkansans by showing where in the state a program is offered, the cost of a program, if a program is in-person or online, in addition to the skills that can be gained. Ms. Shryock added that they are working on developing a statewide platform and working to get as many programs published into the registry so the programs are in front of people so they will know about the learning opportunities across the state.

Ms. Shryock said the first group they began working with was the Arkansas Correctional School District where they offer 22 CTE programs. Ms. Shryock added that they were able to take those 22 credentials and link the data to courses and specific skills learned from those credentials.

Chair Obenshain asked if there is a cost to the post-secondary institutions. Ms. Shryock said there is no cost. Chair Obenshain asked if there was a way to link to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) or any preexisting database that already has everything loaded. Ms. Shryock

said they are working on that but there still will be light manual work to connect and fill in some of the gaps.

Brock Thompson asked how this process started. Ms. Shryock said much of it was initiated by the Governor's Office. She added that the direction is coming through the Workforce Cabinet, chaired by Mike Rogers, Chief Workforce Officer. The Cabinet released the Statewide Workforce Strategy which specifically called out the Cabinet's approach to have a portal for everyone to go to.

Chair Obenshain asked that they not develop another timeframe for reporting for consistency with other required federal and state reporting. Ms. Colburn added that the Enrollment Report dates will be July 1 through June 30, which lines up with the data collected for out-of-state colleges and universities. Ms. Shryock said timeframes can be put on the data in the registry, and also indicate whether a program is active or historical.

Jacqueline Brownell asked if the data would be aligned with the secondary programs at the high schools in the state. Ms. Shryock said they are currently working on linking the secondary CTE courses and standards and the next priority is to publish that data.

Input from SBPCE Members

Chair Obenshain asked for a motion to adjourn. Jacqueline Brownell made a motion. Brock Thompson seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.