

## CAREER CONNECTIONS GROUP

March 19, 2008

Orrin E. Bailey, Secretary

Members:	Present:	Excused:
Mr. Paul Bonsall		X
Mr. Tony Ebli		X
Mr. Larry Godwin		X
Mr. Chuck Guay		X
Mr. Andy Hongisto		X
Ms. Laurie Kaufman	X	
Ms. Gina Lindquist	X	
Mr. Don Mourand		X
Ms. Johanna Ostwald		X
Dr. Steve Piereson		X
Mr. Steve Pontbriand	X	
Mr. Michael Powers		X
Mr. Tony Retaskie	X	
Ms. Jenny Short		X
Mr. Darlene Smith	X	
Mr. Tom Sparacino	X	
Ms. Sheila Veraghen		X

### I. Call to Order

T. Retaskie calls meeting to order stating that there will be a back to back Career Connections and Job Force Board meeting. T. Retaskie welcomed the following guests: Ms. Amy Berglund (Regional Representative for U.S. Sen. Carl Levin), Mr. Dale McNamee (Legislative Aide for State Representative Tom Casperson), Dr. Laura Coleman (Bay College), Barb Walden (M-TEC at Bay College) and Six County Employment Alliance Board Members Ed Lindstrom (Alger County), Tom Elegeert (Delta County), Les Ruohomaki (Delta County), Joe Stevens (Dickinson County), Gerry Corkin (Marquette County), Bernie Lang (Menominee County), Floyd Berger (Menominee County) and Gerald Zellar (Schoolcraft County). T. Retaskie also welcomed special guests Mr. Mike Hansen (President of the Michigan Community College Association), Ms. Luann Dunsford (Chief Executive Officers of the Michigan Works! Association) and Ms. Malorie Kersten (Public Relations and Special Events Coordinator of the Michigan Works! Association), Mr. Larry Harrington (Iron County Commissioner), Diana Carpenter (Lead, No Worker Left Behind Action Team) and Mr. Andy Levin (Deputy Director of the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth).

### II. Roll Call

### III. Approval of Agenda

There are no additions or changes to the agenda.

### IV. Reading, Correction and Action on Minutes

December 19, 2007 minutes accepted for file.

### V. Old Business

#### A. Central U.P. Workgroup

Tim Zimmerman, Delta Schoolcraft Intermediate School District, gives overview of the Vocational Tech Prep Grant. This grant is to develop the linkages between the 11<sup>th</sup> and

12<sup>th</sup> grade Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs and post-secondary certificate, associate and baccalaureate degree programs or apprenticeship programs. The long range plan summary for years 2008 to 2013 will be to establish a regional Tech Prep Consortia of education, training and business/industry partners; development programs that prepare students for high wage, high skill and high demand occupations; and to establish a program management/leadership structure that includes the Career Connections Group in an integral advisory role. 2008-2009 Central Region grant allocation is \$99,340. The activities for the upcoming school year will include aligning high school CTE programs with related college and university programs; annually update/renew the region's 67 current articulated (advanced placement) credit agreements between Northern Michigan University and Bay College; develop new articulation agreements with post-secondary institutions and develop a data systems for tracking students from high school to college/university degree and job placement.

The Perkins Grant application is also reviewed. Carl D. Perkins Career & Technical Education Act is to develop approved high school Career and Technical Education Programs and provide for continuous improvement of their technical and academic instructions. The long range plan summary for years 2008 to 2013 include involving all the region's K-12 schools desiring to cooperate in planning and delivery of CTE programs; developing CTE programs that prepare students for high wage, high skill and high demand occupations; and integrating the academics, technical and business industry connecting activities in all CTE programs. 2008-2008 Grant activities include aligning all regional CTE programs with the new state technical skill standards; provide program access and support services for special population students; develop business/industry partnership with each program through advisory committees and work-based experiences; and to upgrade program technology an equipment to the standard found in business and industry.

#### **B. Career and Employability Skills and Applied Learning Committees**

T. Retaskie reports that these two committees are working together to bring a mobile unit of *Construction Zone* career exploration pods to middle school students. The initiative is in the planning stages. Representatives of the committees are planning a trip to visit the manufacturer Questech, located in Farmington Hills, Michigan. At the most recent committee meeting, Keith Larivee, Instructor for the Phoenix School of North Menominee Community Schools demonstrated the Construction Zone's Air Conditioning/Refrigeration Workstation. The workstations are designed to provide a total learning experience in each construction workstation using visual, auditory and tactile stimulus to teach students about the specific career. Included in each workstation is a curriculum manual that includes a career component that introduces the student to what it would be like to actually working in that trade, including information on job conditions, education requirements and potential income. After a student is introduced to career information, terminology and equipment, the student can begin hands on work experience, using professional tools. These workstations are designed for the trades. The members have developed an action plan and are looking for grants and sponsorships to support the initiative.

#### **VI. New Business**

There was no new business.

#### **VII. Adjournment**