



**CAREER & EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (CEAC)**

**MINUTES**

**March 8, 2024; 1:00 P.M.**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:57 pm by Chair Charmian Fletcher.

Allard, Diana – Genesee ISD	X	Lietz, Lindsay – ZF Group	
Avery, James – Flint Genesee Group	X	Dr. Myszenski, Rebecca – Mott Community College	X
Barry, Ray – GST Michigan Works Flint		Napier, Troy - Baker College Owosso	X
Finkbeiner, Ann – Scheurer Hospital/WDB	X	Pavlichek, Lee – Tuscola ISD, TCC Principal/CTE Director	
Fletcher, Charmian – Shiawassee RESD	X	Schlaud, Annette – Lapeer ISD Ed Tech/WDB member	
Franks, Dale – Shiawassee RESD	X	Shelton, Mary – Family Literacy Center/WDB member	X
Grimes, Dayonte – Lapeer Community Schools		Terry, Verona - Flint Genesee Job Corps Center	X
Hipes, Howard – Michigan Bricklayers & Allied		Walker, Lane - Huron Area Technical Center	
Langenburg, Brad – MI-Tech Tool	X		
Brieger, Paul – SRES/CCRC, CTE Dean of Students, Instructional Coach		McCulloch, Joe – MEDC, Business Development Manager	
Cowhy, Dawn – Lapeer ISD, Asst. Principal, Ed Tech Center		Matthews, Robert – Mott Community College	X
Gandhi, Nick – Economic Analyst, State of Michigan		Mosher, Dawn – Lapeer ISD, Manager of Assessment, Data & Instructional Services	
Guzman, Rey – Business Services Representative, State of Michigan	X	Najor, Tony – Principal Lapeer ISD, Ed Tech Center	
Dr. Jackson, Madonna – MCC-Dean of Technology Division/Lead Success Coach	X	Nelson, Deb – Sanilac ISD, Student Services Coordinator	X
Keenan-Lechel, Sarah – Genesee ISD	X	Walworth, Corrine – Genesee ISD, Career & College Access Coordinator	X
Konarski, Ann – Lapeer County CAN	X	Zagorski, Kristen – Huron ISD - MiSTEM Director for Huron, Sanilac & Tuscola counties	X

An X indicates attendees.

Staff present were Jody Kerbyson, Sharon Bowen, Jessica Billiau, Angela Libkie, Sheila Rock, Wanda Bigelow, Cindy Thornthwaite and Stephanie Polmanteer. Other attendees present included Dan Roeske.

**II. Presentation by Dan Roeske, SEMCA/WIN, GEM**

Dan introduced the EV (Electric Vehicle) Jobs Academy or EVJA, available through SEMCA Michigan Works/Workforce Intelligence Network (WIN) in partnership with the Global Epicenter of Mobility (GEM). EVJA can provide training, certification, tuition assistance, and other supportive services to Michigan residents looking to pursue a career in the EV industry. The presentation included an introduction to the program and how it can assist businesses and individuals in training for in-demand careers within the industry. Discussion followed.

III. Action Items

a. Approval of minutes of previous meeting

Member Diana Allard moved to approve the November 3, 2023 meeting minutes. Member James Avery supported the motion. Chair Fletcher called for discussion. Chair Fletcher called for a vote. All members present voted AYE.  
MOTION PASSED

b. Approval to nominate Mary Shelton to the Workforce Development Board to represent Adult Education/Literacy.

Member James Avery moved to approve the nomination of Mary Shelton to the Workforce Development Board. Member Diana Allard supported the motion. Chair Fletcher called for discussion. Chair Fletcher called for a vote. All members present voted AYE.  
MOTION PASSED

c. Approval of 24-25 Perkins Grant Application for Region 11

Deb Nelson presented the Region 11 Perkins Grant application to the council. Member Diana Allard moved to approve the application. Member Dale Franks supported the motion. Chair Fletcher called for discussion. Chair Fletcher called for a vote. All members present voted AYE.  
MOTION PASSED

d. Approval of 24-25 Perkins Grant Application for Region 15

Member Diana Allard presented the Region 15 Perkins Grant application to the council. Member Dale Franks moved to approve the application. Member Verona Terry supported the motion. Chair Fletcher called for discussion. Chair Fletcher called for a vote. All members present voted AYE.  
MOTION PASSED

e. Approval of MiSTEM Region 6 Strategic Plan

Sarah Keenan-Lechel presented the Strategic Plan for Region 6 to the council. Member James Avery moved to approve the application. Member Diana Allard supported the motion. Chair Fletcher called for discussion. Chair Fletcher called for a vote. All members present voted AYE.  
MOTION PASSED

f. Approval of MiSTEM Region 7 Strategic Plan

Member Charmian Fletcher presented the Strategic Plan for Region 7 to the council. Member Troy Napier moved to approve the application. Member Diana Allard supported the motion. Chair Fletcher called for discussion. Chair Fletcher called for a vote. All members present voted AYE.  
MOTION PASSED

g. Approval of MiSTEM Region 11 Strategic Plan

Kristen Zagorski presented the Strategic Plan for Region 11 to the council. Member Diana Allard moved to approve the application. Member James Avery supported the motion. Chair Fletcher called for discussion. Chair Fletcher called for a vote. All members present voted AYE.  
MOTION PASSED

#### IV. Updates

##### a. Adult Education/Literacy – Mary Shelton

Shelton shared a report with members outlining how the region's numbers compared to the State for FY July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024. It illustrated that of the 710 GED's/HSE's earned statewide, 137 (20%) were obtained in Region 6. The GED test consists of four subjects: Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and Math. Nationally, Math is the most challenging. Of the students who have one test remaining, 88% are still working to complete their Math test.

##### b. CTE

###### o Genesee County– Diana Allard

CTE enrollment continues to trend upward. GISD currently has approximately 1,600 students enrolled in courses, and they expect approximately 2,200 students next year. GISD contracted with Mott Community College to provide HVAC training for its juniors and seniors this year. For this training, GISD arranged transportation for the students to attend their training. GISD is in the process of providing similar contracted training for dental assistants. They have been working with the Genesee County 911 Department to add a 911 fire and police dispatch course that will lead to certifications. CTE Adult Education has started its 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort of classes with 24 students enrolled. Classes include CNA, Construction, and Welding. CNA is the most popular, with 16 students.

###### o Huron County– Kristen Zagorski

Huron County is hosting its "Get Hired" job fair today. The event is intended for CTE students ages 14 and older. The event brings in employers from across the county to meet with students looking for summer employment opportunities, or in the case of older students, long-term employment is also available. Huron Area Tech Center is also preparing an event to highlight the center. The event will introduce students and their families to the programs offered at the center and the available career opportunities upon graduation from a program.

###### o Lapeer County - No updates available.

###### o Sanilac County – Deb Nelson

Deb reported that the enrollment process has started for next year. Enrollment should be completed by the end of April. The average enrollment currently stands at around 400-500 students. The center is now offering CDL certification to 2<sup>nd</sup>-year students who are enrolled in the auto, construction, and engineering courses. Many students have shown interest in the certification, and it allows them immediate career opportunities.

###### o Shiawassee County – Charmian Fletcher

Enrollment for Career Tech, Dual Enrollment, and Early College closed on March 1 with 311 applicants, a 114% increase from last year. SRESA removed a barrier this year by arranging transportation to and from the center for 1<sup>st</sup>-year students, dramatically affecting their enrollment numbers. Welding and electrical courses are gaining in popularity amongst students. Two heavy equipment programs have been added to begin this year, and there are plans to add a Public Safety course.

Charmian reported that the county has been researching options to improve math literacy numbers. SRESA recently worked with a math coach to correlate tabletop math games with each CTE program to help enhance mathematical skills. The strategy has shown great success, and they plan to continue building upon it. Shiawassee County also provides math recovery courses to educators, allowing the region's teachers and instructors to better serve their students.

- Tuscola – Kristen Zagorski provided updates for Tuscola CTE and Region 11 (Upper Thumb) MiSTEM.

The Thumb Region continues to grow in Career Exploration by hosting bi-annual Career Exploration Fairs for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in each county. The events are held at the county's fairgrounds and are expected to host just under 3,000 students. The Thumb is currently building a GIS story map to use at career fairs to illustrate where STEM-related businesses can be found locally. Work has begun on a program for 1-day STEM camp training events over the summer so students can gain insight into industries they may be interested in. Some partners that have already expressed interest include Renewable Energy and Healthcare businesses. The events will also be an externship opportunity for teachers in the region. The region has begun awarding educator mini-grants to teachers who apply for use on STEM projects. The mini-grants range from \$500 to \$1,000, depending on the project and the project's business or community partners. Lastly, the region is looking to follow suit with the Project Based Learning initiative that has become very popular throughout other regions and plans to host a 3-day Project-Based Learning (PBL) Design event.

#### c. Career & College Access Networks

- Genesee County – Corrine Walworth

GCAN and GISD have created a digital college planning guide to help lead senior graduates toward post-secondary education. The guide walks the students through the process by providing digital links to each required step needed to be successful in moving forward. The guide not only guides students through the schooling process but also for skilled trades training. Genesee County is also partnering with local colleges to host FAFSA workshops. The goal is to provide graduating students with the tools needed to succeed after high school by utilizing their Digital Toolkits. The toolkits provide access to information for continuing their education and now includes interviews with previous students on why FAFSA, scholarships, and continued education are essential.

- Huron County – No updates available.

- Lapeer County – Ann Konarski

On March 14, MiSTEM and DTE will sponsor the 8<sup>th</sup>-grade Career Connections event at the Mott Community College Lapeer campus. For this event, 960 Lapeer County students can select which career they will explore to pique their interest and engagement. All 8<sup>th</sup> graders will participate in two new sessions at the event; a "Cool Connections" session highlighting the benefits of math and science and a session introducing a Language Learning model AI Chat GPT, for class-level tutoring in biology and geometry. On April 24, 300 Lapeer County students will explore skilled trades opportunities at the Blue Water Building Trades that the county park in Goodells. GST Michigan Works! helped by sponsoring the transportation for the event. The county also has a Talent Tour scheduled in May to visit the Pinnebog Wind Park in Huron County, highlighting the Wind Turbine Industry and careers. Lastly, a 10-week program will start in June, where high school graduates will receive one-on-one assistance from Success Coaches to guide them through the steps toward post-secondary education.

- Sanilac County – No updates available.

- Shiawassee County – Charmian Fletcher

The county experienced increased applicants for Dual Enrollment programs, with 273 applications, and Early College, with 173 applications for the upcoming year.

- Tuscola County – No updates available.

**d. MiSTEM**

- **Region 6 (I-69 region) – Sarah Keenan-Lechel**  
Region 6 focuses on project-based learning for their teachers and instructors. This strategy is being led with a Project-Based Learning (PBL) Design workshop over the summer. Continued support is being provided through a Project-Based Learning Network. The network will provide follow-up support to Region 6 and three others developing their own PBL initiatives. A Project-Based Teacher Leader Network was also launched this year to support capacity building for the future. The region plans to expand its STEM Teacher Tours with a finer focus on Career Development. GISD is hosting a Teacher Tour at McLaren for Anatomy and Physiology for high school teachers and students. Another tour is scheduled to take place at the Genesee County water treatment plant in Columbiaville.
- **Region 7 (Mid-Michigan region) – Charmian Fletcher**  
Several sponsorships were obtained for STEM programs throughout the year. MiSTEM, SRES, Shiawassee Economic Development Partnership and GST Michigan Works! are working together on the "What's Next" seniors' event on April 17. The event was developed to assist graduating seniors in continuing their education.

**e. Regional Career Outlooks – Nick Gandhi**

Nick Gandhi was not in attendance for the March 8th CEAC meeting, but he reported that the Michigan Center for Data and Analytics plans to release its 2024 Annual Planning Information and Workforce Analysis Report this spring, a link was provided. He noted that a PowerPoint and Excel file had previously been created for each prosperity region; however, this year, these reports are provided through the link for each Michigan Works! area.

**f. Skilled Trades/Apprenticeships – Wanda Bigelow**

GSTMW holds standards for 26 employers across the region. Open positions with employers are expected this summer. Recently, Early Childcare Education apprenticeship programs have been a focus. Currently, four employers are running the programs with hopes of gaining more. Also, new construction trade informational postcards have been created and are being distributed across the region to provide information on the opportunities available through the registered apprenticeship programs.

**g. Career Exploration Subcommittee – Jessie Billiau**

GSTMW received an additional \$30,000 in state funding that will be used to support smaller career exploration events across the region, as well as the MiCareer Quest event. The hope is to support at least two to three career exploration events in each county.

**h. GST Youth Programs – Angela Libkie**

The 2023 Young Professionals program has come to an end, and the grant approval for 2024 has come through, totaling just over \$213,000. Two-thirds of the funding will go to the Thumb Counties, and one-third will be utilized in Genesee County for the 2024 Young Professionals Program. The MiCOACH grant has successfully provided funding for Genesee County Healthcare training programs. There is a waiting list for programs, with March classes filled and limited open spots for June.

V. Other Updates/Comments

- Mott Community College announced that they are hosting an Open House for the Technology Division and Workforce of Economic Development at their Flint Campus. The event is geared toward but not limited to juniors and seniors. The open house will include overviews of the programs, conversations with instructors, and demonstration tours throughout the facility. Also, the credit for prior learning for industry credentials has been approved. They have piloted six students through the program, averaging 20 awarded credits for prior learning toward their degree.
- Job Corps is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and will open the doors to all the centers across the country for a public event to introduce themselves and the opportunities available through their programs. Also, this quarterly CRC meeting will be held at the McLaren Hospitality House on Thursday, March 14.
- Kari Granz with the Thumb Community Health Partnership announced they are working to provide career and career exploration opportunities throughout the Thumb by increasing partnerships between healthcare and behavioral health systems. The goal is to provide more learning opportunities for those interested in healthcare to fill local jobs in the healthcare field.

VI. Adjournment

Seeing there was no other business, Chair Fletcher called the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ray Barry, Secretary  
Stephanie Polmanteer, Administrative Specialist

  
Ray Barry, Secretary

9/13/24

Date