



**CAREER & EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (CEAC)
MINUTES
September 12th, 2025, 1:00 P.M.**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Chair Charmian Fletcher.

Allard, Diana/Amy Hoeksema – Genesee ISD	X	Mosier, Brianna/Amy Watts – Flint & Genesee Education & Talent	X
Barry, Ray – GST Michigan Works!	X	Napier, Troy – Baker College Owosso	
Fletcher, Charmian – Shiawassee RESD	X	Pavlichek, Lee – Tuscola ISD	X
Grimes, Dayonte – Lapeer Community Schools		Prill, Yvonne – Scheurer Health	X
Hipes, Howard – Michigan Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Training Center	X	Shelton, Mary – Family Literacy Center	X
Langenburg, Brad – MI-Tech Tool		Stiles, Casie – Shiawassee RESD	
Lietz, Lindsay – ZF Group		Terry, Verona – Flint Genesee Job Corps Center	X
Matthews, Robert/Autumn Scherzer – Mott Community College	X	Walker, Lane – Huron Area Technical Center	X
Balcer, Kay – Thumb Community Health Partnership	X	Konarski, Ann – Lapeer County CAN	X
Brieger, Paul – Shiawassee RESD	X	Lewis-Jennings, Tracie – Michigan Rehabilitation Services	
Cowhy, Dawn – Lapeer ISD		Mosher, Dawn – Lapeer ISD	
Gandhi, Nick – Economic Analyst, State of Michigan		Nelson, Deb – Sanilac ISD	X
Granz, Kari – Thumb Community Health Partnership		Seigel, Lisa – MiSTEM Director for Mid-Michigan, Region 7	X
Green, Tanya – Shiawassee RESD		Walworth, Corrine – Genesee ISD	X
Guzman, Rey – Business Services Representative, State of Michigan		Zagorski, Kristen – Huron ISD – MiSTEM Director for Huron, Sanilac & Tuscola counties	
Keenan-Lechel, Sarah – Genesee ISD	X		

An X indicates present members.

Staff present were Jody Kerbyson, Sharon Bowen, Jessie Billiau, Katie Chrismer, Stephanie Polmanteer, Brenda Watts, and Rhonda Militon.

II. Approval of Agenda

Chair Fletcher called for approval of the agenda. Yvonne Prill moved to approve the agenda. Lane Walker supported the motion. Chair Fletcher called for discussion and a vote. All members present voted AYE.
MOTION PASSED

III. Introductions

Members, staff, and other attendees introduced themselves.

IV. Action Items

- **Approval of the minutes of the March 14th, 2025 meeting**

Howard Hipes moved to approve the meeting minutes. Diana Allard supported the motion. Chair Fletcher called for discussion and a vote. All members present voted AYE.

MOTION PASSED

Updates

a. Adult Education – Mary Shelton shared concerns about continued funding for Adult Education programs following recent state and federal budget proposals. Notably, though the WIOA funding for next year is uncertain, the funding has been allocated for the current year. Mary shared that the Family Literacy Center is also working closely with Tuscola County in creating additional literacy programs for Tuscola, Sanilac and Huron counties.

b. CTE & CCAN

- Genesee County – Diana Allard reported that the Genesee Career Institute (GCI) has a total of 1,840 students currently enrolled. The institution is offering three programs in collaboration with Mott Community College, focusing on electrical work, welding, and HVAC. Excitingly, there are six new programs set to launch at local high schools that will funnel into the GCI programs. Presently, around 5,000 students are participating in career and technology education classes. Additionally, the county is looking to implement lab assistance programs that will enable students to gain valuable credentials in that field. Furthermore, credentials for registered behavior technicians will be integrated into the teacher education programs.

Corrine Walworth highlighted Genesee County Career and College Access Network's (GCCCAN) commitment to providing valuable information and resources for students and parents. Recently, they launched a podcast aimed at sharing tools and information across the school districts and to educators throughout the county. With Michigan College Month approaching, they'll provide guidance on accessing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Michigan Achievement Scholarship. Additionally, there's an event planned for the end of October specifically for the ambassadors working with students in the county. The goal of this event is to equip student ambassadors with resources to better assist the students they serve. Moreover, GCCCAN is set to host a FAFSA night in December of this year.

- Huron County – Lane Walker shared that Kristen Zagorski, who previously held the position of MiSTEM Director for Huron County, has recently taken on a principal role in Bad Axe. He announced that interviews to select a new MiSTEM Director will kick off next week. In other news, Lane reported that 44 students are enrolled in training at the tech center to earn their Commercial Driver's License (CDL) this year. Enrollment at the tech center is thriving, with an impressive 92% of county students with access participating in classes, including those in dual enrollment. Additionally, Lane provided updates on a recent change to the county's cell phone policy, which was made in response to numerous requests from local employers and county officials. This policy was developed with input from a group of graduating students to ensure a balanced approach. Although it faced some initial resistance, the change has since been well-received, resulting in clearly positive outcomes. Since the school year began, students have shown increased engagement, both academically and socially within the classroom.
- Lapeer County – Ann Konarski shared that the Lapeer County College Access Network (LCAN) has their first college tour planned for September 24th, 2025, at St. Clair Community College, noting that the event will be focused on the nursing and welding programs. She also mentioned that the county has already organized their attendance for the upcoming GSTMW! MiCareerQuest™ event and are planning to have approximately 500 students take part in the event. Furthermore, Ann announced that she is currently in the process of setting up another

virtual reality event with GSTMW! at the county's Alternative Education Center for Innovation for Lapeer schools as well as the Lapeer Education Technology Center. Lastly, the LCAN formed a partnership with Lapeer ISD Adult Education and GSTMW! for the purpose of planning a program for adult education individuals ranging in ages 26-40 years old. The planning portion of the partnership concluded with new professional kits that will provide additional resources for adult job seekers.

- Sanilac County – Deb Nelson announced increased enrollment in all nine programs at the career center with almost 500 students enrolled this year. The center is also continuing to focus on providing certifications through their programs.
- Shiawassee County – Charmian Fletcher reported that enrollment remains strong, with 240 Career and Technology Education (CTE) students, 243 Dual Enrollment students, and 161 Early College students this year. Currently, 45% of high school juniors and seniors are enrolled in courses at the career center. The Early Middle College program recently achieved a successful completion rate of 93%. Additionally, the center now has access to a heavy equipment facility, thanks to a local business, for its heavy equipment work-based learning program. The center began preparing the facility for program use on July 1st, 2025. Charmian highlighted that the career center is also focusing on certifications through its programs, reporting that last year, 28 students graduated with their Nursing Assistant certification. The center has several planned events taking place in the coming months. A Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID workshop is scheduled for September, followed by a FAFSA application workshop in October. They will also host a college essay writing workshop in September and a Career Pathway Expo for the county's tenth graders in October. Lastly, the first of four core workshops will be held in September for the early middle college students. This workshop focuses on time management, how to effectively utilize available resources, and knowing when to seek help while attending college.
- Tuscola County – Lee Pavlichek reported that the Tuscola Technology Center currently has 17 available programs for students. This year, they have 720 enrolled students, with numbers continuing to steadily increase each year. Lee also announced that the center remains focused on providing certifications through its programs, ending last year with a total of 1,026 earned certifications. In addition, 12 students completed the newly launched Fire Fighter Academy program last year; 50% of students passed both the written and hands-on tests to become certified Fire Fighters. Certified students that are 18 years old are now working for local fire departments, while those not yet of age will be able to join thereafter. The remaining students have only one test left to pass for certification. This year, the program starts with 18 students enrolled, and the center hopes certification numbers will rise following its launch last year. Finally, the Technology Center is actively working to expand apprenticeship opportunities in the county, these have been harder to secure given the area's rural setting.

c. MiSTEM

- Region 6 (I-69 region) – Sarah Keenan-Lechel reported that many professional development events are taking place in the region. Two of the region's six teachers were recently part of the Statewide Project-Based Learning (PBL) facilitation team. They led seven workshops across the state. They also assisted in early math initiatives in St. Clare County as well as select schools in Genesee County. They are currently working on creating partnerships to help them bridge gaps between 3P (problem-, project-, and place-based) learning and career awareness initiatives. Sarah announced that due to uncertain budgets they have put this year's STEM Teacher Tours on pause until final numbers are released.

- Region 7 (Mid-Michigan region) – Lisa Seigel introduced herself as the new region MISTEM director covering, Clinton, Ingham, Ionia and Shiawassee counties. Lisa reported that the region will continue focusing on project-based learning, math improvement, MISTEM experiences, and college and career planning. She hopes to have more updates about the region’s plans at the next meeting.
 - Region 11 (Upper Thumb region) – No representative present to provide updates.
- d. Regional Career Outlooks – Nick Gandhi was not in attendance. However, he forwarded the following updates to be shared at the meeting. Regional career outlooks have been released; print-ready copies should be available for download on the website in the next week or two. He also provided information about a new regional career outlook dashboard that should launch in the following weeks.
- e. Skilled Trades/Apprenticeships – Jessica Billiau announced that the Business Services department held their first Race to Talent event at the GSTMW! Marlette office on August 27th, 2025. The event honored health care providers that have recently launched apprenticeship programs. Some of the attending employers included Aspire Health Care, Memorial Health Care, Harbor Beach Hospital and Schuerer Health. The next Race to Talent event will be held in November with the Flint Odyssey House and will also be focused on community health worker apprenticeship programs offered there. GSTMW! is currently holding apprenticeship standards with 39 high-demand employers and currently has 36 active apprentices.
- f. GST Youth Programs – Katie Chrismer shared that the GSTMW! Youth Program had a busy summer with youth work experiences. Across six counties, 125 youth work experiences were conducted with over 50 employers. The experiences were partially funded by the 2025 Young Professionals grant, the Young Professionals Plus grant, and local WIOA Youth funds. Cohorts were organized, where small groups of youth participated in work readiness, career exploration, and soft skills training before being placed in their respective work experiences. Although the proposed budgets are not final, GSTMW! anticipates that the Young Professionals grant will be available again in 2026. GSTMW! has shifted toward incorporating the Jobs for Michigan’s Graduates (JMG) framework into its regular youth services. This program year, JMG is integrated into all GSTMW! service centers and the Shiawassee RESD in-school youth programs. Youth Solutions, the parent organization for JMG, is currently facing budget uncertainties since a significant portion of their funding comes from the state budget. Advocacy efforts for the program are ongoing. GSTMW! is a long-term, high-performing affiliate of the JMG program, and the funding is combined with other grants along with WIOA funding. GSTMW! is continuously seeking ways to expand and diversify its funding sources.
- g. Employer Insights
- Howard Hipes reported that the Michigan Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers have a need to replace 40% of its workforce in the next five years following the retirement of current members. He shared that the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers union is actively working to increase participation in its apprenticeship program to accommodate the future need for journeymen. Additionally, Howard mentioned that many unions are starting to look toward partnerships with local technology centers in hopes to introduce the trades to students early in their career development.
 - Verona Terry announced that Job Corps was able to reopen their doors after its sudden shut down. Students that had been forced to leave campuses have since been able to return. Additionally, the agency is also now able to resume background checks for new students to continue future enrollment. Agency leaders remain hopeful that the facility will remain open and continue to be a beacon of hope to community youth.

- Kay Balcer shared that the Thumb Community Health Partnership's grant from Michigan's Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) is coming to an end on September 30th this year. They are currently working on innovative strategies to sustain their programs. Additionally, they are seeking to obtain a readiness grant to continue meetings that are key in bringing businesses and institutions together.

h. Career Exploration Subcommittee – Jessie Billiau announced that the MiCareerQuest™ event planning is in full swing. The event will run a little differently this year, allowing students more time engaging with employers and careers they are more interested in. This year's funding and budget has again freed up funds to allocate towards supporting additional career exploration events in the GSTMW! service area. Last year, the agency was able to assist multiple career exploration events in the region.

V. Other Updates/Comments

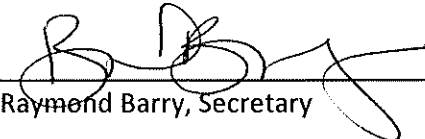
Diana Allard, who serves on the credentials and barriers subcommittee for the Michigan Workforce Development Board, stated that 14 trade organizations have been recognized to allow active apprentices and journeyman to obtain college credits to use towards further credentials. She also noted that on the barrier side of the subcommittee, members are working to resolve the issue of low employment numbers for disabled students. Additionally, the board is working on resolutions to upskill Michigan career coaches and scaling foundational training in a way that allows easier access to resources for job seekers throughout the state. Diana also mentioned the creation of the MILEarner Wallet™. The MILEarner Wallet™ talent profile can hold all the students earned certificates, badges and even videos that employers can easily view when considering the individual for employment. The program is also being configured in a way that adult job seekers can utilize the tool as well.

VI. Adjournment

Seeing there was no other business, Chair Fletcher called the meeting adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 7th, 2025.

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


Raymond Barry, Secretary

11/7/25
Date