

Manatee Technical College
Board of Governors
April 8, 2021, 4:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

Present: Fred Bartholomew, Omar Edwards, Amy Farrington, Mary Foreman, Todd Fritch, Jennifer Gilray, David Harris, Maura Howl, Lisa King, Heather Koester, Lauren Kratsch, Bill Lee, Joshua Matlock, Greg McGrew, Laura Roberts, Ellen Sage, Matt Schole, Kim Stroud, Valerie Viands, John Ziemnicki

Vice-Chairman, Bill Lee, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and thanked all for attending. Appreciates all the hard work done in the past, looks forward to getting things done in the future, and bringing new ideas to the table.

Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes: *A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2021, meeting. The motion passed.*

Reports:

Grants Update: Sent out with agenda. No comments.

Council on Occupational Education (COE) Reports: Valerie Viands stated that three plans are on the agenda for approval at this meeting. The plans were emailed to members with the agenda for this meeting. *Mr. Lee asked for a motion to accept the plans. A motion was made and seconded to accept the COE plans. The motion passed.*

Director's Report:

- Rapid Credentialing – MTC has received a \$298,618 Rapid Credentialing Grant. These funds are part of the CARES Act Fund. MTC has disbursed 46 scholarships totaling \$104,000. A plan is in place to award another 72 scholarships by August. Several new rapid credentialing opportunities will be offered in the next couple of months.
- Audit Findings – MTC recently went through a quality review and compliance audit covering Adult Education and Career and Technical Education grants. The audit took place February 1 through 5. We are pleased to find out from the preliminary report from FLDOE that we have no findings. The final notice has not yet been received but the initial report looks very good.
- Proposed Meeting Dates – Since many MTC Board of Governors members also serve on the EDC Board, we were careful not to select any conflicting dates for next year's meetings. The proposed meeting dates for the 2021-2022 school year are the following Thursdays: August 26, 2021, October 28, 2021, January 27, 2022, and April 28, 2022. All meetings are scheduled for 4:00 p.m. *A motion was made to approve the proposed meeting dates for the 2021-22 school year. Motion seconded. Motion approved.*

District/State Information: Paul Gansemer was unable to attend the meeting. No update given.

Mr. Lee individually asked those present if they are willing to serve as a member of the MTC Board of Governors for the next three-year term. All answered that they would.

Note: According to the bylaws, “the Executive Committee will make recommendations for each position at the August Annual Meeting to be voted on by members.” This list of representatives from business and industry will be presented at the August 26, 2021, meeting for approval. At the August meeting we will take nominations from the approved membership and hold an election for the positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Discussion Topic: Update from Each Member

John Ziemnicki – World Design and MTC Foundation: Biggest problem right now is enrollment due to COVID. Trying to get out and working with government and employers, etc., to reinvent the situation where we can get more enrollment and more students employed. Rapid credentialing will help. Need to work with contacts at high schools to work with students and make them aware that there is funding available from the MTC Foundation to help with tuition. Let them know that there are opportunities to start at MTC and move on to SCF and a university. Reach out to students to let them know there is a route to funding to get them enrolled.

Matt Schole – MTC Main Campus Teacher Representative: We are already starting to get leads on students looking to enroll in August for the baking and culinary programs. Since last meeting, Heather has worked hard to get job leads out in the system. The new system is working well and providing good leads. There are more jobs posted/available than we have students available to fill them. Things looking good for the program and enrollment.

Omar Edwards – MTC Assistant Director: Excited to tell you that we are doing just that, getting into the schools. For the month of April, we will be recruiting in the high schools every Friday. By end of April will have touched over 1000 students. The first visit is to Southeast High School tomorrow. We will be meeting with the students in their economic and social studies classes. If anyone is interested in joining Mr. Edwards at the high schools to help recruit, please contact him. He would love to have any of you go with him. Working with SCF and USF to create a pipeline to continue education all the way through. Will continue to promote rapid credentialing at recruiting events. MTC had a great open house virtually and touched over 900 students at this event. Over 200 students attended application workshops. Excited for future.

Several members expressed an interest in attending the high school recruiting sessions. Below is the schedule. If you would like to participate, please contact Omar Edwards by email at edwardso@manateeschools.net or by phone at 941-751-7900x1002.

The following schools have confirmed Mr. Edwards’ attendance to speak to their seniors through their Economics/Social Studies classes:

- April 9, 2021, Southeast High School, 7:30 am to 2:30 pm
- April 12, 2021, Palmetto High School, 7:30 am to 2:30 pm
- April 16, 2021, Manatee High School, 7:30 am to 2:30 pm
- April 19, 2021, Bayshore High School, 7:30 am to 2:30 pm
- April 26, 2021, Manatee School of the Arts, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
- May 3, 2021, Manatee School of the Arts, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
- April 23, 2021, Manatee High School, 7:30 am to 3:00 pm

Fred Bartholomew – Transportation Programs Representative: Transportation industry is remarkably busy. The demand for skilled technicians is greater than the supply of available employees. Always looking for avenues to enroll and employee students in the automotive area. Mr. Bartholomew came to MTC's automotive program and spoke to the group of students graduating at the end of this school year. Looks like there are ten students ready to enter workforce; we could use 20. Anything he can do to help the industry, he is in. Mr. Lee recognizes the same situation. He has believed we have the best group of automotive instructors there are, and he has hired many program completers.

Heather Koester – New Business and Industry Coordinator for MTC: She has been in this position for three months now. Ms. Koester reported that she has created a new system for receiving available jobs from the community. Everything is submitted on-line. There are currently over 225 different companies and industries and over 1,040 jobs logged for students to access. Every student has at least two jobs waiting for them when they complete their program. The jobs are categorized by career- type jobs that start at over \$15 per hour and provide benefits or supplemental jobs that are lower paying that could provide an opportunity for students to work while attending school. She can't even begin to say what a great resource Career Source is. A virtual job fair is scheduled for June 2. Career Source is supporting this event and helping students prepare resumes.

Lauren Kratsch – EDC Director of Business Retention and Expansion: Recent new companies locating to the area or expanding are bringing in new dollars to the community. So many manufacturing and other industries in our community are opening back up and looking for employees and the talent they need. There are currently sixty relocation and expansion leads in the pipeline for companies to either relocate or expand to our area. Everybody wants to come to Florida right now. People are coming here in droves and we want them to have jobs. Eighteen of those projects are underway; they have made the decision to expand or relocate to the area. The goal is to get people back to work. The EDC will work with MTC as much as possible to help employers locate the workforce they need. Majority of need is in the manufacturing area. Definitely more jobs available than there are workers to fill them.

Maura Howl – MTC Communications and Grants Management Supervisor: Dr. Viands gave an update on the rapid credentialing grant. Florida DOE is very busy with requesting accountability measures on everything. We are keeping up with the requests. She is excited about the rapid credential grant helping people to get in training programs and getting them jobs.

Amy Farrington – VP of Public Policy and Workforce Partnerships, Manatee Chamber of Commerce: The Chamber serves as the backbone of Reach Manatee, which many of our BOG

members are partners in this collaborative effort. Reach Manatee is focused on post- secondary degree or certificate attainment. The organization is building partnerships, encouraging students to fill out FASFA applications, mentoring students. One of the things the organization has completed lately is the Where are the Jobs? guide which is a really wonderful resource for showing people different paths to get to different jobs. It shows in demand jobs, how to get there what the average salary is and has a list of resources in the back of the guide. Here is a link to the guide: www.manatee-chamber.com/WhereAreTheJobs

Joshua Matlock – CareerSource Suncoast: Thank you to Heather and Lauren for the great partnership we have with you we work really closely. The partnership really makes a big difference. As has been mentioned already, there is a talent shortage in skilled positions. We are also seeing a significant shortage in unskilled positions. In a meeting this week with Elliott Falcone and John Horne we spoke specifically about the shortage in the restaurant and hospitality industry. Some restaurants can't open doors due to lack of staff. This has forced some restaurants to pay up to \$18 per hour for dishwashers to keep the business open. Definitely a shortage of workers at the moment, but hopeful that will come back. Come May we may see some help in this area. One thing that he anticipates is an increase in clients coming to CareerSource Suncoast. A lot of our clients that come to see us are mandated to come through our doors for assistance. For the past year there has been a waiver of this requirement due to the pandemic. We had 10,000 people per month come through our door prior to the pandemic and recession. We are thinking that in May the State will not reinstate the waiver. When this happens, we anticipate an increase in foot traffic through our doors. These are clients that we can steer toward training.

David Harris – MTC East Campus Teacher Representative: East Campus is offering some new hybrid programs: Practical Nursing, Pharmacy Tech, Medical Assisting, Medical Biller/Coder. In the hybrid programs, students come to MTC night classes to do the hands-on in person and their other course work is done via Canvas. They come to class two to three nights per week. We are hoping this will increase enrollment. Another thing Heather and David are working on is they have reached out to Harbor House and Alpha house. This organization works with homeless families, about 25 families. They will pay 100 percent for any kind of career education. Heather is working on the rapid credentialing side of it and we are working on enrolling some of these people in the hybrid programs. We can provide a job for them, a career to help them get back on their feet.

Laura Roberts – Manatee County High School Representative: I'm a college and career advisor at Southeast High School. As Omar mentioned he will be at SEHS tomorrow. He was also here in March and did an amazing job presenting to our government and economic classes. After tomorrow's presentation we will have sign up for an application workshop to assist students with applying to MTC. We do the same with State College of Florida. Our push has been FASFAs working closely with Reach Manatee and also working on industry certifications for our students. We are excited to have all the support and assistance from this board and our community.

Todd Fritch – State College of Florida Representative: Like everybody else, SCF has our own sort of rescaling, upscaling rapid credentialing activities that we have been focusing on. Really

excited and reference back to what David mentioned, we have expanded articulation agreements with MTC to include pathways for associate degree options in many areas. Rather than focusing on a specific discipline, doing something more broadly in health services management allows folks to get a two-year degree and qualify for increased compensation and move up in their career. Working with Jennifer Gilray and her staff at the east campus to strengthen that articulation. Was on the call with Josh and Elliott the other day and talks to John Horne who is on the SCF Board of Trustees all the time. We have ongoing conversations about hospitality and tourism management. Happy to announce that we've just hired a full-time faculty member who will continue our efforts to grow programs in the hospitality and tourism areas. Hoping to announce the establishment of an associate degree in hospitality tourism management during the next academic year. The degree will articulate with the programs offered at MTC as well. On the other side of that equation, working closely with USF to provide students baccalaureate or graduate opportunities. Focusing on trying to be that key partner that helps to represent the thread of educational opportunities for all of our students at the high schools, the technical colleges, state college and universities. This is a little bit of what we've been working on there are more things like this in the pipeline that I will report at the next meeting.

Karen Stroud – HR Director for Manatee County Government: Sitting in for Karen Stewart while she is serving as County Administrator. Being a representative on this Board is a really good fit as the HR Director. Manatee County is seeking innovative ways to find new talent and have worked with several people here at this meeting. We met with Omar right before COVID and had a great plan in place in terms of a training program. That is really what our focus is right now. Particularly with skilled trades jobs as we have a variety of opportunities for internships. We actually just met with Barry King, MTC Building Trades and Construction Instructor, about doing a 12-week paid internship for his students. A mentor will be assigned to the student for those 12 weeks. The mentor will work together with the student to, for example, build out furniture or changing stations at the beach. These internships would be an opportunity to give students a taste of what it is like working in the public sector and to remind them of the great benefits available working for an organization in the public sector. We are really excited about this partnership. We need more people, you need more students, we need more employees. We are really preparing for the American rescue plan which is going to flood our community with hundreds of millions of dollars, but that means we need to have talented skilled and unskilled folks to take on this work that is going to be transforming our community.

Greg McGrew – MTC Assistant Director: COVID has hit everyone very hard. Very proud that MTC was able to come back last year when everyone else was shut down. Our students were also able to return at the beginning of the year and on time. Our numbers actually improved a little for the semester beginning in January. I think we should see better numbers again next year with the help of Omar and Heather. Trying to stay focused on the positive and the great things we are accomplishing and making things better here at MTC.

Mary Foreman – School Board Member Representative: Discovering that the school district too suffers from the talent shortage in the areas of both skilled and unskilled workers. The district recently lost one of our very talented individuals to Ms. Stroud, Dr. Hopes. One of the things we are doing that will be a boon to the medical side is that we are really focusing on some interesting programs starting at the middle school level through the high school level of training

for students to be ready for careers in the medical field. Lincoln Memorial Academy is being converted in the Fall to a medical magnet school. These students will then feed into the high schools that offer medical programs. Recently toured and had the opportunity to attend an anatomy class at Braden River High School. Nearly all high schools and middle schools have the cadaver tables. They are huge virtual dissection tables. She got to observe students working on an individual with a knee replacement. We will be graduating some students that are really well versed in the medical area. Impressed with Omar going out to the schools to recruit for MTC and would love to go with him one day. Send email and she would enjoy seeing what he is doing. We need to get more students in the technical school

Jennifer Gilray – MTC Assistant Director: Most of what is happening at MTC East Campus has been high-lighted by David Harris. Relating to what Mrs. Foreman said, MTC also has an anatomage table. To help high school students pursue a career in the medical field, we have added several dual enrollment opportunities – optometric express, pharmacy tech, medical lab assisting. We have added programs for high school students, but we also want to encourage adults to attend MTC.

Ellen Sage – MTC Assistant Director: Recruiting is key focus for adult ed. We are kind of in a funny position with adult education. We are waiting on some potential legislative changes which could change how adult ed does business in the state of Florida. Adult education is completely funded by grants. Changes in the grants are also pending. So, we are in a holding pattern, but what we do know about some of the changes that are coming is that adult education students need to be instructed with contextual concurrence instruction in a career tech pathway. This is not entirely new to adult education as we have been doing this for some time. Again, really don't know how this will look as of next year, but we will continue to focus on recruiting efforts and increasing our partnerships with our CTE counterparts on the other campuses

Mr. Lee asked if there is any other business. No response. He said a few closing words and adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm