

Workforce Investment Board (WIB)

Youth Council

August 13, 2013 – 3:30 p.m.

Tucson Urban League
2305 S. Park Avenue
Tucson, AZ

Minutes

Voting Members Present

Vaughn Croft
Deborah Dixon
Amanda Kucich
Johanna Duffek
Daphanie Conner
Debbi Embry

Staff, Partners & Guests Present

Dorothee Harmon
Dana Katbah
Debra Johnson
Joe Romano
Michael Gates
MaryAnn Phininzy

- I. **Call to Order** – at 3:30 p.m. Vaughn Croft chaired the meeting.
- II. **Action Item:** Amanda Kucich moved to approve the June meeting minutes. Johanna Duffek seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously,
- III. **Tucson Urban League Presentation – Debbi Embry**
Debbi Embry welcomed the Youth Council to the Tucson Urban League, (TUL) where she is in her third month as President and CEO. Debbi ran the Urban League in Canton, OH, and the YWCA in Racine, WI, and served as Grant Writer for the City of Racine and later as the Director of the Racine Mayor's Office of Strategic Initiatives and Collaboration.

Debbi said that her focus at TUL is to make it an innovative organization that makes a significant, positive impact on the community. Key factors include clear mission that drives programs and services, evidenced-based programming, a strong board, and diversified revenue stream. Recent efforts included updating the agency mission statement, submitting a balanced budget to the TUL Board of Directors, eliminating unfunded programs and selling rental properties. Driven by Tucson's high poverty rate, TUL is focusing on core programming: education, job training, employment and job creation through entrepreneurship. Current efforts include starting a virtual Workforce Development Institute to connect new workers with career training; re-opening a (TUL or other partner) Charter School in TUL's school building; and converting TUL's two daycare centers into preschools.
- IV. **Announcements**
 - Youth Career Fair - Amanda Kucich said United Way is gathering status updates from youth who participated and compiling statistics, and said she would have those to share at the next meeting.
 - Opportunity Youth Innovation Fund – Amanda announced that United Way was awarded the planning grant from Aspen Institute and that interviews were underway for a director. She said the team would soon be ready to start exploring some type of merger between the WIB Youth Council and the United Way Youth Development Coalition.

- Summer Youth Opportunities – Dana Katbah reported that system-wide 1,270 youth were served this summer. A full report will be made at the September Workforce Investment Board meeting.
- Education Fair – Vaughn reported that approximately 500 youth participated in an education fair at Tucson High School. The fair was marketed broadly in the community, and featured 130 exhibitors and talented student entertainers.
- Fred Acosta Job Corps will be holding a Center Industry Council meeting on August 28. The group works to develop business engagement in Job Corps vocational training and support for community outreach.
- College Fair at El Pueblo Neighborhood Center presented by Congressman Grijalva and City of Tucson on September 21.
- Cheyenne Kindness Project Triathlon with 200-300 athletes + family members on September 14. Contact Johanna Duffek with any promotional items to include in goodie bags or if interested in being an exhibitor.
- Metropolitan Education Commission 16h Annual High-Tech Career Symposium.
- Tucson Service Learning – recruiting for youth retreat; seeking new schools to participate. Youth will have the opportunity to apply for mini-grants to design, plan and run their own service projects.
- Debra Johnson gave a brief presentation about TUL's new Career YES program, funded by a grant from the City of Tucson. The project is recruiting up to 30 youth aged 17-21 who are disconnected from the workforce. Career YES will hold an information session for interested youth on August 26 at 4:30 p.m. The program consists of four components: Educational Enhancement (assessment, goal-setting, information and referral), Life Skills Training, Community Service Projects and Pre-Apprenticeship Training in Basic Construction Skills. The program will run for 12 weeks part time. At this time there is no funding for stipends.
- Vaughn distributed the nomination form, with minor edits, for the Youth Council Outstanding Youth and Outstanding Employer Awards. Last year two youth from Las Artes were recognized. Debbi volunteered to chair the nominating committee this year, and Vaughn asked that members send any input on the forms to her.

IV. Discussion on Youth Career Expo #3 – Biotechnology

Council reviewed the preliminary outline and task list for the Biotech Career Expo to be held in Fall 2013. The event will be capped at 150 youth participants and be held at BIO5 on a Saturday morning. Johanna volunteered to work on outreach to business presenters in coordination with Gerri Brunson at the One-Stop. MaryAnn Phininzy volunteered to recruit volunteers to host breakout sessions. The group discussed tentative date on October 26 and possible conflict with United Way Days of Caring.

V. Next meeting: September 10, 2013

VI. Adjournment – 4:45 p.m.