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## MEETING OF THE PIMA COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD (WIB)

### ARIZONA@WORK Pima County One-Stop All Partners (Core Program Partners and Other Partners)

Friday, March 9, 2018, 9:15 a.m.

Pima Community College, Community Campus, Meeting Room A-230  
401 N. Bonita Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85709

### Meeting Summary

#### Members Present

Lisa Verdugo  
Dr. Vaughn E. Croft  
Laurie Kierstead-Joseph  
Dan Sullivan  
Glenda Roark  
Amanda Abens

Joaquin Murrieta  
Brad McCormick  
Gary J. Garcia  
Julie Neff-Encinas  
Mary K. Boegemann

#### Members Absent

Kari Hogan  
Christian Espinoza  
Christopher Tafoya  
Miryam A. Valenzuela  
Rosemary Cora-Cruz  
Regina Suitt  
Christopher G. Hisel

Rose Grijalva  
Jorge Rivero  
Jenn Felix  
Michael Gates  
Daphanie Conner  
Nelson Aguirre  
Peggy Castano

#### Guests Present

Charles Casey  
Sean Lopez

Dorothee Harmon  
Kevin Webb

- I. **Called to Order:** Glenda Roark, Title IV Vocational Rehabilitation Services, 9:21 a.m.
- II. **Action Item:** To Review the 02/09/18 Meeting Summary. The Committee reviewed the 02/09/18 Meeting Summary.
- III. **Arizona Career Readiness Certificate (ACRC):** Dorothee Harmon reported that the ACRC is an optional on-line testing with modules. At the direction of Governor Ducey, a multi-agency, cross-disciplinary team began to look for ways to implement the governor's vision of "opportunity for all" and to help make Arizona the best state in the nation in which to work. The commitment of this team was to the development of data-driven solutions, so the initial effort included extensive research into the state's economy and labor market. Resources from the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA), and the Arizona Department of Economic Security (D.E.S.) collaborated on an initial report which included some very relevant findings.

Arizona's labor force participation rate is low. In particular, among Arizonans in what should be the prime earning years of their careers, 35-54 years old, we rank 51st among the states for our percentage of citizens who are in school, working or looking for work. While this large pool of

potential talent is on the sidelines and not participating in this robust economic recovery, Arizona employer regularly tell us that their difficulty in finding qualified talent is approaching crisis level.

Through a series of industry summits and strategy labs, these employers have clearly indicated that the available supply of job candidates is lacking in the foundational academic, technical and personal competencies needed to be successful in their businesses.

The new ACRC will validate an individual's cognitive mastery of seven core skill areas that are relevant to a large majority of jobs in the American workplace:

- Applied mathematics
- Reading for information
- Workplace data and graphics
- Professionalism
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Communication
- Critical thinking and problem solving

The intent of the governor's Goal Council #2 through the ACRC project is to illuminate an alternative path back to the labor force for these individuals who may be well-removed from his/her last educational accomplishment or successful employment.

The desired effect is that job seekers, especially those who have been unsuccessful for a long time in efforts to rejoin the workforce, will be able to demonstrate to potential employers that they have mastered the skills that are most important to success in the roles they are trying to fill.

Dorothee Harmon said that Pima County staff met with Trevor Stokes, OEO, in January 2018 to learn about the tool and share what Pima County has been doing. Pima County One-Stop staff need to be trained and additional information is available at <https://arizonaatwork.com/sites/default/files/media/acrcwhitepaper.pdf>.

**IV. Core Partners' Office Hours at Partner Sites:** Laurie reported hours for their One-Stop staff.

**V. One-Stop Partner Updates:** The Partners reported updates related to their WIOA-related programs and activities.

Glenda Roark reported that Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) has not heard about the ACRC.

Julie Neff-Encinas reported that in January 2018 she was aware that the Arizona Department of Education was training people on the ACRC and had wondered if other Partners had heard about it or not.

**VI. Next Meeting:** Friday, April 13, 2018

**VII. Adjourned:** 10:30 a.m.