

**WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

**OCTOBER 20, 2009**

**8:30 A.M. BORG WARNER ROOM – TC PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**PRESENT:** B. Bantle, B. Blanchard, R. Bohman, D. Bradac, D. Chadwick, M. Coldren, L. Dillon, P. Gardner, C. Haynes, D. Huston, P. McKee, J. McPheeters, B. Myers, E. O'Donnell, M. Opperman, L. Patz, A. Pedersen, M. Talarski, M. Turnbull, N. Zahler

**EXCUSED:** T. Grippen, D. Herath, L. Holmes, L. Leonard, B. Pass, M. Stamm

**ABSENT:** J. Little, D. Marsh

**GUESTS:** M. Armstrong, TCAD

**STAFF:** J. Mattick, Jennifer Luu

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Pedersen called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. He welcomed Mary Stazi, from The Computing Center as the WIB's newest member.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was Moved by Mr. Bantle, seconded by Ms. Patz, and unanimously adopted by voice vote of members present to approved the minutes of September 22, 2009, as submitted.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

Ms. Armstrong from TCAD provided an overview of the process used in developing the Workforce Strategy. Several board members made suggestions for consideration and Ms. Armstrong will incorporate those changes and the final draft will be sent out again for review. A vote by email will be sought from members to approve the Strategy following review. The County Legislature will be asked to accept the strategy at a meeting in the beginning of 2010.

Mr. Pedersen, on behalf of the Board, thanked Ms. Armstrong for her leadership on this lengthy project and creating a concise final product.

Next steps will include the Board convening at their next meeting in January 2010 for a working session to review the six priority goals contained in the Strategy and begin making recommendations for implementation.

**STATE OF THE ECONOMY AND WORKFORCE – WHAT ARE OUR BUSINESSES CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING**

Members were asked to give a brief snapshot of what each of their companies is facing during the economic downturn. Most companies reported flat hiring practices during this time with only essential personnel being recruited, some spoke about their companies undergoing budget realignments, and others expressed concerns about the Governor's budget and his proposed mid-year cuts. Most reported that they expect to continue business along similar lines in the coming year.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **HEALTHCARE CAREER FAIR UPDATE**

The Healthcare Career Expo was held on October 15, 2009 at Ithaca College with over 350 students from 12 school districts participating. The event provided interactive displays for the attendees and Ithaca College and Cayuga Medical were phenomenal partners to have for the planning of this event.

### **EMERSON UPDATE**

The first group of layoffs will occur in December 2009. Rapid response services are being provided to employees. A Trade Act Adjustment petition has been filed with the federal government and if approved, will provide affected employees with additional training funds. Ms. Mattick noted that the WIB received substantial funding through ARRA, but those funds are nearly depleted as are the training funds received for the period beginning July 2009.

### **OTHER**

Ms. McPheeters congratulated Kionix on their recent acquisition by Japanese company, Rohm. Ms. Chadwick stated that the acquisition brings a lot of capital into the community and the company could see the number of employees double in coming years. Kionix will be a wholly owned subsidiary and will retain its original name. The company will continue to remain in Tompkins County.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m. The next WIB meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 26, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. in the Borg Warner Room at the Tompkins County Public Library.