



LANE WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING

Thursday, December 14th, 2023

3:00pm – 5:00pm

In-Person: Lane Workforce Partnership, 1401 Willamette Street, Eugene

AGENDA

*Mission: To Meet the Workforce Needs of Employers and Individuals
Through Partnerships and Innovation*

- | | | |
|-------|--|----------------------------------|
| I. | CALL TO ORDER / <i>Shondra Holliday</i> | 3:00pm |
| II. | PUBLIC COMMENT – <i>In accordance with Lane Workforce Partnership’s Public Comment Policy: Speakers will be taken in the order in which they sign up and will be limited to three minutes per public comment.</i> | |
| III. | CONSENT CALENDAR / <i>Action</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Minutes of the September 28, 2023, Board Meeting</i> | Pages 1 - 6
3:05pm – 3:10pm |
| IV. | PRESENTATIONS / <i>Information</i>

<i>Deanna Strachan-Wilson, Lane County Health and Human Services</i>
<i>Heidi Larwick, Connected Lane County</i>
<i>Matt Sayre, Collaborative EDO</i> | 3:10pm – 4:00pm |
| V. | CHAIR’S REPORT / <i>Information</i>
<i>Shondra Holliday</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summary of LWP Board/Executive Board/Lane Council Action Items / <i>Information</i> (Minutes for Full Board, Executive Board, and Lane Council meetings are available here)• LWP Board Member Participation on Committees/Workgroups | Pages 7 - 9
4:00pm – 4:10pm |
| VI. | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT / <i>Information</i>
<i>Ashley Espinoza, Lane Workforce Partnership</i> | Pages 10 - 16
4:10pm – 4:30pm |
| VII. | BOARD MEMBER UPDATES / <i>Information</i> | 4:30pm – 4:55pm |
| VIII. | OTHER BUSINESS | 4:55pm |
| IX. | ADJOURNMENT | 5:00pm |

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LANE WORKFORCE BOARD MEETING
Thursday, September 28, 2023
3:00PM – 5:00PM

MINUTES

In Attendance:	Julie Davidson, Billy Dover, Jeff Graham, Courtney Griesel, David Heavirland, Phil Hohnstein, Shaun Hyland, Heidi Larwick, Grant Matthews, Stan Pickett, Tony Scurto, John Stapleton, Laura Vinson, Steve Yamamori
Absent:	Jennifer Adams, Allan Benavides, Bettina Hannigan, Shondra Holliday, Josh McClaughry, Bailey McEuen, Jeff McGillivray, Miles Pendleton, Holly Powell
Board Staff:	Ashley Espinoza, Anne Nestell, Tiffany Cink, Cindy Perry, Lyle Lang, Ryan Kounovsky, Jesse Quinn, Stephanie Lovell
Others:	Deanna Strachan-Wilson

I. CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTIONS

Stan Pickett called the meeting to order, and introductions were made.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR

Steve Yamamori made a motion to approve the May 25, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes. Tony Scurto seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

IV. BOARD OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

On July 1st, 2023, Jennifer Adams automatically moved into the Past Chair position and Shondra Holliday automatically moved into the Chair position.

The Lane Workforce Partnership Board of Directors received notifications regarding the availability of the Chair-Elect, Treasurer, and Secretary positions. Solomon Harris expressed interest in the Chair-Elect position, John Stapleton in the Treasurer position, and Jeff Graham and Phil Hohnstein in the Secretary position.

During the meeting, Phil Hohnstein informed the board that he is withdrawing his name for consideration for the Secretary position due to work commitments.

Tony Scurto made a motion to elect Solomon Harris, Chair-Elect, John Stapleton, Treasurer, and Jeff Graham, Secretary to serve as board officers for a two-year term beginning September 28, 2023. Julie Davidson seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

V. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This past year, the Board engaged in training provided by the Center for Workforce Excellence International (CWEI). CWEI recommended the development of standing committees that tie back to the 17 required functions of the board, local plan, and key priorities.

Staff are recommending that the board start with two committees: 1) Workforce Services Operations Committee; 2) Community Engagement Committee.

Courtney Griesel made a motion to approve two standing committees of the Board: 1) Workforce Services Operations Committee; 2) Community Engagement Committee. Shaun Hyland seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Julie Davidson will serve as Chair of the Workforce Services Operations Committee and Ryan Kounovsky will serve as LWP staff to the committee. Steve Yamamori and Dave Heavirland expressed interest in serving on this committee.

John Stapleton will serve as Chair of the Community Engagement Committee and Jesse Quinn will serve as LWP staff to the committee. Stan Pickett expressed interest in serving on this committee.

VI. LWP YEAR-END PERFORMANCE REPORT

Cindy Perry presented an overview of the Year-End Performance Report, a semi-annual report that provides a detailed analysis of our workforce service delivery system outcomes.

Key Highlights:

1. **Customer Engagement:** Over the past year, there has been a notable increase of 1,568 customers utilizing the services of the WorkSource Center. While there was a decline during the COVID-19 pandemic, we are now seeing an upward trend.
2. **Performance Metrics:** The Youth program continues to perform well in all core performance measures mandated by the law. However, the Adult/Dislocated Worker program faced challenges in achieving Measurable Skill Gain. This issue is linked to the concerns identified during the monitoring process, and corrective measures have been initiated with the contract, as previously mentioned. It is important to note that participants are acquiring the necessary skills, but there are discrepancies in the reporting within I-Trac.
3. **Fund Development:** The Year-End Report includes a breakdown of the grants we applied for, along with the status of those applications. In the past year, we submitted four grant applications and are currently awaiting decisions on three of them.
4. **Impacts of Prosperity 10K:** Upon compiling the data, it became evident that the programs have had a substantial and immediate impact. The following initiatives are attributed to this success:
 - Industry Wide Training Projects (projects designed to help businesses in areas where they need some training and growth): Engaging 105 businesses and 188 individuals.
 - Customized Training Programs: Involving 6 businesses and 84 individuals, where businesses play a direct role in training section and implementation to meet their workforce needs.
 - Career and Training Services Program (including On-the-Job Training, Scholarship Training, Career Services, STEP): Engaging 19 businesses and 377 individuals.
 - Overall Impact: Encompassing 130 businesses and 649 individuals across all projects.

VII. 2024 – 2028 STRATEGIC AND LOCAL PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Cindy Perry outlined the procedure involved in crafting and executing the Local Strategic Plan. As per the requirements of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), states and local boards are mandated to develop and refresh their local plans every four years. We are in the process of updating our Local Plan for implementation in PY 2024. Simultaneously, in Lane County, the Workforce Development Board is in the process of formulating a Strategic Plan that will guide the actions of LWP over the four-year period.

LWP will start the process by convening focus groups in various regions across the county, including Eugene, Springfield, Cottage Grove, Florence, and Junction City. Invitations will be extended to board members, local elected officials, businesses, community members, stakeholders, workforce service delivery partners, and economic development partners.

Additionally, a committee from the Workforce Development Board will be convened to actively engage in this undertaking. The finalized Local Plan is slated for submission to the State Workforce and Talent Development Board by March 18, 2024.

Heidi Larwick noted the importance of incorporating a youth focus group into the convenings along with engaging with individuals who may not typically feel included in such spaces. She suggested visiting community-based organizations that serve these populations, rather than expecting them to attend events in hotel settings.

VIII. PROGRAM YEAR 2023 BUDGET REVIEW

Tiffany Cink provided an overview of the Program Year 2023 Budget. LWP's follows a fiscal year from July 1st through June 30th. The Lane Workforce Partnership 2023-2024 Original Budget was adopted at the May 18, 2023, Executive Board Meeting and the first Budget Modification is being prepared for presentation at the Executive Board Meeting on October 19, 2023.

In the original budget, both revenue and expenses saw a decrease. This reduction was primarily attributed to the one-year State of Oregon Future Ready Oregon prosperity 10,000 funding. Throughout 2022-2023, LWP allocated over \$1.2M to various workforce services and projects across Lane County.

For Budget Modification #1, Community Investments will see an increase based on final Revenue award amounts, and we will replenish funds in our Reserve for Future Expenditures.

IX. CHAIR'S REPORT

Stan Pickett provided an overview, stating that the action item summaries from LWP Board, Executive Board, and Lane Council meetings have been outlined on pages 40 and 41 within the board packet.

X. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In addition to the communication document provided with the board packet for this meeting, Ashley Espinoza highlighted a few points.

- Communication Document
 - This standalone document accompanies the board packet for meeting preparations. The document offers information about the organization, covering updates on programs, legislative matters, events, business services, and more.
- Oregon Economic Development Association (OEDA) Conference
 - The OEDA Conference is being held October 8 – 10 at the Graduate Hotel in Eugene. The conference includes a tour of the Spark on 7th facility.
- WORKing Together Conference
 - The annual WORKing Together Conference, organized by the Oregon Workforce Partnership, will take place November 6 – 8 at the Riverhouse Conference Center in Bend. A special reception for workforce board members is planned for the evening of the 6th. “Constructing a Brighter Future” has been chosen as one of the workshop sessions at the conference. Attendance is encouraged, as last year’s conference was a sold-out event.
- Lane Workforce Partnership Monthly Newsletter
 - We launched a monthly newsletter in July designed to share success stories, valuable insights, and information and resources.
- Connected Lane County Taskforce
 - A taskforce has been created to help define the profile of a graduating student and emerging workforce. The taskforce will focus on questions such as how young individuals can demonstrate mastery in professional, technical, and life skills; how employers can effectively evaluate and provide feedback; and how various stakeholders can collaborate to help individuals bridge skill gaps and realize their potential.
- Customized Training, Lanz Cabinets & Catholic Community Services
 - A video showcasing the impact of this partnership was shared. Through this innovative approach, Lanz Cabinets has achieved an impressive 90% retention rate.

XI. BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

- Julie Davidson (Oregon Employment Department): We continue to offer services around our targeted population of SNAP recipients in robust ways including On-the-Job Training opportunities. Hosted a large event last week with our WorkSource Lane community – 250 individuals engaged with over 30 employers. This marked the first time since the pandemic that we’ve held an event of this size. We continue to build strong ties with justice-involved individuals. We are partnering and hosting a job fair within the state penitentiary in Salem this coming Friday, where employers will have the opportunity to connect with individuals seeking employment.
- Heidi Larwick (Connected Lane County): The first cohort of our Manufacturing Technology Exceleator launched in February 2023 and was followed by the Health Exceleator in June 2023. The Tech Exceleator will launch this fall followed by the Culinary Exceleator in 2024. There is an initiative originating from a group in New York known as Direct Cash Transfers which is also being implemented in other countries. The premise of the program is that providing individuals with unrestricted cash yields better outcomes compared to giving money with specific restrictions. We are one of six sites chosen to participate in this pilot program. Under this initiative, 50 youth experiencing homelessness or couch surfing will

- each receive \$2,500. This approach aims to gain insights into their spending choices while allowing the individuals full autonomy over how the money is spent.
- Shaun Hyland (John Hyland Construction): Shared news about potential developments in the West 11th/Green Hill area. There is interest from a couple of companies for the 25-acre site. One of these companies has the potential to create 300 jobs. If you have any information that Shaun could get in front of these companies to further incentivize their interest, please reach out to him.
 - Tony Scurto (Lane ESD): Shared information about a promising initiative called the Hope Factory, a collaboration between St. Vincent de Paul and HOPE Community Corporation. This program will have participation from 10 out of the 16 school districts. He believes this model holds potential for being replicated across other industries.
 - Phil Hohnstein (Hillside Heights): Hillside Heights is located in the South Eugene area. Despite being the smallest skilled nursing facility in the Eugene/Springfield region, they've made significant strides in bolstering the nursing staff, hiring over 30 individuals, primarily CNA's, within the last three months. In three weeks, they will be hosting a job fair at one of their sister facilities nearby. Hillside Heights completed a market analysis/wage analysis for nurses and developed a complete program where wages increased by \$4 to \$10 an hour. Additionally, they will make investments in CNA wages. Hillside Heights is becoming more invested in the community and will be making monthly sizable clothing donations to the Eagan Warming Center.
 - Courtney Griesel (Sierra Pacific Industries): Sierra Pacific is one of the largest U.S. lumber manufacturers and produces millwork, windows, and renewable energy. They operate four mills in Lane County along with having a biomass power facility in Lane County. On the workforce front, they have a couple of big construction projects underway. They are in the process of building a fabrication and trucking division in Oregon and in the contract stages for CDL partnerships. Many hiring events are happening right now. Additionally, offering tours to K-12 groups with a particular emphasis on older middle school and high school students. Will be holding a workforce tour (lunch and learn) on October 5th.
 - Steve Yamamori (Reveille Foundation): Reveille Foundation is a nonprofit dedicated to supporting underserved populations. Although small, they're gaining traction and building momentum. Tomorrow, they are gearing up for the Stand Down for Veterans event at the fairgrounds. This event is open to all veterans, not just those experiencing homelessness, and many resources will be offered. Reveille has recently secured a VA grant for 35 units of housing here in Eugene as well as 30 units of housing in Lincoln City. Their approach encompasses holistic case management, behavioral health support, housing assistance, and transitional work. Steve looks forward to working with all the partners.
 - Grant Matthews (Lane Community College): Classes started this week, so students are back on campus. Excited for the new year.
 - Laura Vinson (Lane County): Excited for the new clinic opening in Cottage Grove. The South Lane Clinic will break ground later this year, with an anticipated opening in 2024. Lane County is hosting their first medical assistant apprenticeship program – brought on five individuals who will be with us for a year and receive their medical assistant certification while they're employed with us.
 - Dave Heavirland (Veterans Affairs): As Community Employment Coordinator for the Roseburg VA Healthcare System, Dave is tasked to promote the hiring of our homeless veteran's population. Tomorrow is the Stand Down event for Veterans at the Fairgrounds. Our office is thankful to host OED DVOP Rob Ryker once a week.
 - Billy Dover (Tyree Oil): We are in the process of kicking-off a transportation sector partnership at the end of October. This collaboration aims to mobilize the industry in support of promoting CDL driving and diesel-tech positions. Stay tuned for further updates.

- Jeff Graham (Danone/So Delicious Dairy Free): Danone/So Delicious Dairy Free specializes in plant-based ice cream. They are one of 16 plants under the Danone umbrella. In terms of local hiring, the focus has been primarily on backfilling positions due to attrition. Jeff has connected with the Business Services Team at WorkSource Lane and has an OJT tour scheduled for next week.
- Stan Pickett (Delta Sand and Gravel): Successfully conducted a CDL driving school, involving six participants, comprised of both current and new employees, who have all obtained their CDL certifications. Another round of training for six more individuals is in the pipeline. Additionally, we ran a program that trained six concrete workers to work as finish workers, which they really enjoyed. Also trained six laborers to work with equipment and operating.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was noted.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pickett adjourned the meeting.

**LANE WORKFORCE BOARD, EXECUTIVE BOARD
and COUNCIL ACTION ITEM SUMMARY
PROGRAM YEAR 2023/2024 (July 2023 – June 2024)**

<u>Recommendation:</u>	<u>Motion</u>	<u>Seconded</u>	<u>Status</u>
<u>October 19, 2023, Executive Board Meeting</u>			
Approve Executive Board Meeting Minutes, September 21, 2023	John Stapleton	Michele Webber	Approved
Adopt the PY 2023/2024 General Operating Budget Mod #1 as presented	Solomon Harris	Jeff Graham	Approved
<u>September 28, 2023, Full Board Meeting</u>			
Approve Full Board Meeting Minutes, May 15, 2023	Steve Yamamori	Tony Scurto	Approved
Appoint Solomon Harris, Chair-Elect; John Stapleton, Treasurer; Jeff Graham, Secretary, to serve as Board Officers for a two-year term Beginning September 28, 2023	Tony Scurto	Julie Davidson	Approved
Approve two standing committees of the Board: 1) Workforce Services Operations Committee; 2) Community Engagement Committee	Courtney Griesel	Shaun Hyland	Approved
<u>September 21, 2023, Executive Board Meeting</u>			
Approve Executive Board Meeting Minutes, May 18, 2023	Heather Buch	Michele Webber	Approved
Approve Lane Council Meeting Minutes, June 15, 2023	Michelle Webber	Dana Merryday	Approved

LWP BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE/TASK FORCE/WORK GROUP PARTICIPATION

BOARD MEMBER	COMMITTEE/TASK FORCE
Jennifer Adams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWP Executive Board • LWP Community Engagement Committee
Allan Benavides	
Julie Davidson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWP Workforce Services Operations Committee • State Workforce Agency • Front Line Service Impact • Public Assistance
Billy Dover	
Jeff Graham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWP Executive Board
Courtney Griesel	
Bettina Hannigan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oregon State Chamber • Travel Lane County
Solomon Harris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWP Executive Board
David Heavirland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWP Workforce Services Operations Committee
Phil Hohnstein	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWP Workforce Services Operations Committee • SPIN (Senior Provider Informational Network) • DRSF (Delta Rotary Scholarship Fund) • Nursing Advisory Board
Shondra Holliday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWP Executive Board
Heidi Larwick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Adult Housing • Government Org Group
Josh McClaghry	
Bailey McEuen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership on community-based organization serving low-income community members
Jeff McGillivray	
Grant Matthews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Advanced Technology • Community Youth Leader
Stan Pickett	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWP Construction/Aggregate Sector • LWP Community Engagement Committee

BOARD MEMBER	COMMITTEE/TASK FORCE
Holly Powell	
Tony Scurto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lane County Health Council (Pacific Source CCO) • Connected Lane County Board • Lane County Early Learning Hub
John Stapleton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWP Executive Board • LWP Community Engagement Committee • Lane County Early Learning Board of Governors
Laura Vinson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity Community Consortium • Health Information Management Advisory Board, LCC
Steve Yamamori	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWP Workforce Services Operations Committee



Lane County Community Collaborative

Meeting Recap – December 6th, 2023
10:30am- 12:00pm

Present: Jesse Quinn, Kelly Johnson, Nicole Desch, Jaime Covarrubias, Chantelle Meyer, Holly Mar-Conte, Rhonda Busek, Becky-Jo Samples, Henry Fields, Micaela Holt, Paige Walters, Caitlin Vargas, Larissa Ennis, Bob Fittin

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: Kelly Johnson, Executive Director of the Arts and Business Alliance of Eugene, presented the findings from the recent Arts and Economic Prosperity Study conducted by Americans for the Arts – a national organization dedicated to serving, advancing, and leading the network of individuals and organizations supporting the arts in America. Americans for the Arts has been doing this research the past 30+ years and the City of Eugene has participated in this research twice before. This study focused on the economic impact of nonprofit arts and culture in Eugene.

The data collection process involved:

1. Audience Spending: Attendance at approximately 60 events with around 40 diverse arts and culture organizations in the community was analyzed. Audience members were engaged through a 13-question survey that explored their spending patterns related to the events they attended. This survey also captured demographic information and provided insights into the perception of arts and culture in our community.
2. Arts Organization's Spending: arts organizations shared how they spend money in the community.

Key Findings:

- Economic Impact:
 - In Eugene, nonprofit arts and culture generated \$123.8M in economic activity – supporting 2,714 jobs;
 - \$90.2M was spent by nonprofit arts and culture organizations;
 - \$33.6M spending by audiences;
 - Total in-person attendance: 1,125,434;
 - Attendees spend \$29.87 per person, per event, beyond the cost of admission.
- Tourism:
 - Nonlocal attendees: 149,683;
 - Visitors spend an average of \$68.73 per person, per event;
 - 78.7% of nonlocal attendees reported that the primary purpose of their visit was specifically to attend the performance, event, exhibit, venue, or facility where they were surveyed;
 - When attendees were asked what they would have done if the event where they were surveyed had not been available, 41.8% of local attendees said they would have “traveled to a different community to attend a similar arts or cultural activity.”

- Civic Pride
 - “This venue or facility is an important pillar for me within my community.” **86.2%**
 - “I would feel a great sense of loss if this activity or venue were no longer available.” **90.4%**
 - “This activity or venue is inspiring a sense of pride in this neighborhood or community.” **91.1%**
 - “My attendance is my way of ensuring that this activity or venue is preserved for future generations.” **87.7%**

How Eugene compares:

	City of Eugene	Median of Similarly Sized Cities (Population = 100,000 to 249,999)
Organizational Spending	\$90,176,628	\$12,819,757
Audience Spending	\$33,627,675	\$16,823,712
Audience Size	1,125,434	607,830
Nonlocal Audience Size	149,683	144,195

What Does This Mean for Other Sectors:

- Draws and retains a talent workforce;
- Draws tourism;
- Retains local spending.

The study was just released in October, and we are starting our community outreach efforts with local arts and culture organizations. We are also arranging meetings with both state and local legislators to make sure they understand the data’s implications.

A link to the complete study can be found [here](#). Florence area data can be found [here](#).

REPORT OUTS:

[Lane Workforce Partnership](#) (Jesse Quinn):

- Yesterday, we met with Richardson Media (who has been the consultant for Constructing a Brighter Future helping to produce publications associated with the initiative) regarding the transportation sector. We received funding through the EDA Good Jobs Challenge to support the transportation sector across three regions. Within the budget for this, is a line for marketing. Richardson Media will produce a campaign of short videos (four, 90 second videos) and through the video highlights, we will pull out digital and audio clips that can be used for advertising purposes. The campaign will spotlight the WorkSource Oregon Lane Center, career navigation services, benefits for employers participating in sector strategies, and the diverse range of positions within the transportation sector. Filming will start in February.
- This morning we had the opportunity to meet with representatives from Oregon Housing and Community Services at the state level to tour Everyone Village. There was also representation from the Oregon Department of Education as well as a tribal elder from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. The tribal elder is interested in replicating this model on their reservation as they have unhoused members, both Indian and non-Indian, and want to

support these individuals through career opportunities as well as increasing the total number of shelters.

- This afternoon, I will be attending the Florence Taskforce Collaborative and this evening I will be attending a holiday party hosted by the City of Florence, Florence Chamber of Commerce and RAIN Catalysts.
- Lane ESD shared that they were not successful in their BOLI application around a healthcare pre-apprenticeship program. Jesse is going to share the application with Rhonda Busek (Lane Community Health) to see if they might be interested in this work, as it relates to creating the next generation of healthcare providers.
- Yesterday we held a retirement celebration for Lyle Lang with LWP who is stepping down as the Senior Project Manager after 26 years of service.
- Next Thursday, December 14th, LWP is hosting our Winter Social.
- The Community Collaborative will not be meeting in January 2024 – we will reconvene in February 2024. The University of Oregon's RARE Program will be our spotlight.

Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad (Jaime Covarrubias):

- Our graduation ceremony at the Springfield Chamber of Commerce last Saturday was a very nice event.
- We received a grant from Business Oregon and will be allocating funds to provide CCB workshops next year.
- We have established connections with DEVNW and are collaborating with Holly from Onward and the City of Eugene to enhance our outreach and impact.
- We have plans to offer workshops specifically for the construction business. These will include sessions conducted by a lawyer focusing specifically on contracts.
- We have received a grant to benefit the community during the holiday season. We have decided to provide gift cards to families in need.

City of Florence (Chantelle Meyer):

- Continuing our housing resources work, we are developing the housing implementation plan and codes referred to as Camping and Transitional Housing.
- This afternoon, the Florence Taskforce Collaborative, a group formed during the pandemic, will meet. The focus of this group is to ensure that Florence stays informed about county-wide news and important issues.
- Tonight is our Holiday Happy Hour, co-sponsored by RAIN, Florence Chamber of Commerce, and the City of Florence.
- As part of My Public Arts Program, we have announced a call for art. Our goal is to feature six large-scale public art pieces along Highway 101 between the Siuslaw River Bridge and the Highway 126 intersection. The areas for the art have been identified and the call will remain active for at least another week, possibly extending through the end of winter break. This is an opportunity for local artists to showcase their work and we will be marketing and promoting their art.

Onward Eugene (Holly Mar-Conte):

- We have been doing quite a bit of planning for 2024 and have secured some funding, which is great.
- Quality Care Connections will be doing fast-track training in Florence on January 20th. This one-day Saturday training for people interested in entering the child care field provides an efficient way for participants to fulfill prerequisites. Theoretically, individuals can attend on a Saturday and then be in a classroom on Monday with continuous professional development and support. This strategy aims to strengthen the pipeline into the child care sector. Additionally, two sessions are planned for Eugene in 2024 at the LCC Campus.
- Thanks to funding from the Roundhouse Foundation (via the LCC Foundation), we are set to support child care business accelerators. Unlike fast-track accelerators, this initiative is designed for individuals interested in opening their own in-home child care program. The collaboration with Jaime focuses on individuals who have completed the Cambios program or are interested in starting their in-home program. Anticipated for 2024 are three cohorts, including one rural community (potentially Cottage Grove or Florence), and a Spanish-speaking cohort. Results from the first cohort:
 - 60 applications received;
 - 20 participants enrolled, with 18 on track to graduate;
 - Projected potential for 100 – 200 new child care slots in the community;
 - All program graduates starting a child care business will receive \$5,000 for their business.
- We have received a strategic grant from the Ford Family Foundation for the statewide child care media campaign, Child Care Works, which will launch in early 2024. The campaign will feature materials and a website that will go live at the campaign's initiation.

Lane Community Health Council (Rhonda Busek):

- Moving fast and furious through our grant cycle right now. One recent grant application, addressing food insecurity within the BIPOC populations, has been successfully completed. The proposal centered around the creation and expansion of food pantries, and other things to be considered. We are in the process of notification and working all the pieces out.
- The second grant is in its final stages and will be presented to our Community Impact Committee later this week, followed by the Board next week. This grant is focused on youth behavioral health encompassing areas such as bullying, behavioral health services for LGBTQIA2S plus populations and then just overall, youth behavioral health services, as well as innovative ideas addressing the identified priority areas.

Connected Lane County (Becky-Jo Samples):

- Connected Lane County received a \$1.4M Future Ready Oregon Round Two Workforce Ready Grant from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. This grant spans three years and will be used for our [Excelerators Program](#). We have already completed the manufacturing technology excelerator and currently youth are participating in the tech excelerator. Early next year, we will be launching the health care accelerator. Excelerators are designed to prepare youth for work through accelerated education, training, and hands-on skill application in growing career fields. Each Excelerator focuses on a different high-demand field, including training, certifications, and relevant skill-building to prepare young people for careers.

- This weekend marks the fifth annual [codeORcreate](#) hackathon for high school students in Lane County, taking place December 8 – 10. Fifty youth and seven mentors from local industries will be participating.
- The third annual [marketingJAM](#) is scheduled for the weekend of January 26 – 28, 2024. The event is free and open to youth interested in marketing, branding, design, and business. Each team will have a professional mentor for the weekend, and participants will present their projects to a panel of local marketing professionals who will evaluate and select the winners. Please encourage youth to form teams of 1 – 5 and register [here](#).

OED Workforce Analyst/Economist (Henry Fields):

- Presenting information to various boards, including the Lane Transit District’s Board of Directors. Next Tuesday, I will be talking with Peace Health’s Executive Board.
- Over the past year, there has been a shift of individuals becoming very pessimistic about the economy even though the fundamentals are strong. When we consider consumer sentiment – how people perceive the economy and their spending – they currently exhibit the highest level of pessimism since 1991. While there is a prevailing sense of pessimism, the economic indicators suggest that we are not facing a dramatic recession in the next couple of years. While a recession remains a possibility, it is unlikely to resemble what happened in 2020 or 2008. One thing that has risen to the top recently is helping people understand that although there is pessimism, there are still compelling signs pointing towards optimism.

OED – WorkSource Lane Business Team (Micaela Holt):

- Two events happening next week:
 - Next Tuesday, from 10:00am – 5:00pm, Sierra Pacific Industries will be conducting a hiring event at WorkSource Oregon Lane. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age.
 - Next Friday, from 10:00am – 2:00pm, WorkSource Oregon Lane will be hosting a [Talent Match Healthcare Professions Career Fair](#). While open to the broader community, this fair specifically extends an invitation to workers affected by the Peace Health University District closure. Nine employers have already committed to participating, and we have been actively reaching out to potential job seekers. If you are aware of healthcare employers who might be interested in attending, please encourage them to contact me at 971-718-4530 or micaea.r.holt@employ.oregon.gov.
- Additionally, LTD has expressed interest in potentially having a hiring event in the future. I will be meeting with them next week to explore this opportunity further.

Springfield Chamber of Commerce (Paige Walters):

- This morning, our staff participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Thurston High School celebrating the launch of their new business as part of the Business CTE program.
- Recently, we hosted informative roundtable discussions on housing and development in Springfield. We have been keeping our eye on the housing development tax exemption currently under consideration by the Springfield Council, anticipated to enter the public comment phase in early 2024. This exemption could serve as a valuable tool to stimulate development, particularly in downtown areas. Looking ahead to January, we will host a roundtable in collaboration with LCC, focused on workforce. This roundtable will include a tour.
- This Friday, our Small Business Solutions Hub Program will focus on how your organization can gain access to capital. Summit Bank’s SBA lending experts will share the intricacies of Small Business Administration (SBA) loans, and WaFd Bank will provide insights into the various

lending options, eligibility criteria, and the application process. Additionally, representatives from organizations offering non-traditional access to capital lending will be present, though not in a presenting capacity. More details can be found [here](#).

Collaborative EDO (Caitlin Vargas):

- This evening, we are partnering with the University of Oregon for an entrepreneur mixer in conjunction with Launch Oregon. The event is free to attend, and we have already received 95 registrations. The showcase will be three different startup companies in Eugene that have ties to the University of Oregon.
- On January 26th, we are hosting a career tour with a bioscience focus. Participants will have the opportunity to visit three different companies. LTD generously provides a bus for transportation and we can take up to 50 students from the U of O.
- Nicole Desch has been helping with the Talent Match Healthcare Professions Career Fair which is shaping up to be an amazing event.

University of Oregon (Larissa Ennis):

- Karl Scholz, President of the University of Oregon, has initiated a strategic listening session process to develop priorities for the university and is seeking community input. There have already been several events across campus, and he is interested in input for the wider community as well. President Scholz has outlined three foundational pillars for the new strategic plan: student learning and achievement; elevating U of O's outstanding scholarship and service; and campus belonging. For more details on the strategic priorities process, click [here](#). To provide your input, participate in the survey that is open until December 31st. To request the survey, email: onward@uoregon.edu
- In collaboration with the Vice President for Research and Innovation, my team has created an informative one pager detailing how the University of Oregon is accelerating workforce development and research in semiconductors, advanced materials, and devices. The document can be accessed [here](#).
 - Key highlights include:
 - ~1,000 STEM undergraduate degrees conferred annually;
 - #1 nationally grantor of MS degrees in applied physics;
 - #5 nationally grantor of MS degrees in applied chemistry;
 - 250% increase in enrollment of women and underrepresented scholars in KCGIP (Knight Campus Graduate Internship Program) since program launch in 1998.
- New for fall 2024, the U of O will introduce a hands-on Quantum Technologies Master's Program focused on building experimental skills needed by the quantum technology workforce.

Catholic Community Services (Bob Fittin)

- Tomorrow at 4:00pm, we are having a ribbon-cutting ceremony at our new Eugene location. This is the unit's third move in two years. The mayor will be there to formally cut the ribbon.
- Tonight marks the beginning of refugee arrival season. Anticipating 50 refugees from various parts of the world this year, the first family is expected to arrive on the last flight into Eugene tonight. They will be reconnected with a family member who lives in Eugene after a 20-year separation so this will be quite emotional.
- David Ross, our Program Manager, has taken another job, and we are currently in the process of hiring for his position.

- Farm Worker Compensation: We are working to wrap this up by the end of December. Approximately 175 farm workers applied for the \$600 compensation for their work during the COVID pandemic. We have the capacity to support approximately 25 more applications.