

## **MEDA NextGen Workforce Committee**

**December 18, 2020**

**9am**

**Participants: Matt Olson, Shannon Lewis, Austin Trunkle, Steve Arveschoug, Mary Craige, Nicole Rush, Davey Madison, Todd O’Hair, Tracy McIntyre, Christina Henderson, Webb Brown, Liz Ching, Allison Corbyn, Russ Fletcher, Nisan Burbridge, Brian Obert, Raymond Brown, and Gloria O’Rourke.**

**1. Review of Next Gen Report Workforce Recommendations** – Steve Arveschoug and Austin Trunkle, Big Sky EDA shared an overview of the key workforce recommendations from the Montana Next Generation of Economic and Community Development Tools report.

Discussion:

- Tax incentives for business development and growth will be a priority for Governor-elect Gianforte.
- Russ shared: "AN ACT CREATING THE MONTANA EQUITY CAPITAL INVESTMENT ACT;PROVIDING CONTINGENT, DEFERRED TAX CREDITS TO INVESTORS [https://leg.mt.gov/bills/2005/SB0199//SB0133\\_1.pdf](https://leg.mt.gov/bills/2005/SB0199//SB0133_1.pdf)
- Russ shared: Venture Capital Tax Credits By State [http://www.icemiller.com/enewsletter/bulletins/pen/tax\\_credit\\_chart\\_pen.pdf](http://www.icemiller.com/enewsletter/bulletins/pen/tax_credit_chart_pen.pdf)
- Work with existing childcare group to meet the needs described.
- Talent attraction and retention: South Dakota model is interesting. Expensive (\$50 million) but indicates how states are getting serious about this topic. Build Dakota Scholarships <https://www.builddakotascholarships.com/>
- Russ shared: Recruitment and Retention Resources Nationwide <http://champsonline.org/tools-products/rrresources/other-rr-resources>
- Matt: Education system must be a part of the conversation.
- Shannon will share a report on who should be at a table for local community development. It is meant to be replicated on the local level.

## **2. Priorities Discussion:**

- Collaboration – how do we do it, across all sectors, that is meaningful and keep all people engaged.
- Workforce training
- Summit – Dirty Job Summit
- Childcare
- Attraction – use Russ and Todd’s programs

- Metrix for how we know your community can retain its workforce: childcare, housing, education, etc? Use this information as a promotional document.
- Centers of Excellence – BioScience
- Support local initiatives – know what they are

#### More on Dirty Job Summit

- Matt said the Montana Chamber is working with SWIB to energize the business community to pay more attention to high school age students with a competition. They are considering a Dirty Jobs Summit to help recruit businesses and talent. Out of the summit there is a formalization of our workforce development strategy across the state. The idea is to showcase what education is doing, what training providers are doing, what workforce development is doing....this is what worked for this town, that town, this business, that business, etc.

#### From the Chat

- Christina: In case we run out of time, MT High Tech Business Alliance has Workforce as one of our strategic priorities this year. We have seen a large uptick in available tech jobs in our jobs board in Q4 as companies emerge from hiring freeze and have backed up demand. We are planning to map career pathways in tech, particularly in high-demand fields like professional services, biotech, and software. And we are looking at educational partnerships that address gaps, for example there are great programs in IT or photonics that don't have enough students enrolled.

### **3. Agenda for Next Meeting**

- Continue priorities list
- Create subcommittees
- Who else needs to be at the table to be updated on other statewide efforts?