



Workforce Development *is* Economic Development

512 29 ½ Rd  
Grand Junction, CO 81504

---

Mesa County Workforce Development Board - Bi-Monthly Meeting Agenda  
Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022: 7:30am-9:00am

**HYBRID MEETING**

Meeting ID

<https://zoom.us/j/99811614719?pwd=dmRuditWR2dNWDRwZ1MxZjRnNDVwUT09>

Meeting ID: 998 1161 4719

Passcode: 431231

7:30 AM Attendance and Roll Call/ New Board Member Recognition Introductions

7:35 AM WFC Success Story

"I was granted funds through the VetWorks program for a police academy refresher in October 2021. Unfortunately I was not selected for an opportunity in Ft Lupton, but I am in talks with other agencies, and my POST certification is good for 3 years. I fully intend to be employed in law enforcement in 2022. Currently I am working as armed security at the BLM in Grand Junction with a salary of \$20.73 per hour. My wages will be closer to \$30 per hour when I am hired in law enforcement. I want to thank everyone who was involved in my training through VetWorks Program."

7:30-7:35 AM **Consent Agenda**

*\*\*The Consent Agenda is intended to allow the WDB to spend its time on more complex items and initiatives. These items are generally perceived as non-controversial and can be approved by a single motion. Board members may ask that an item be removed from the Consent Agenda for individual consideration.*

- i. Appoint Alma Sekulich: Innovative Textiles to the WDB as a business rep.**
- ii. Appoint Karen Troester: Grand Junction Federal Credit Union to the WDB – Executive Committee**
- iii. 7/21; 9/21; 1/22 WDB Meeting minutes' approval**
- iv. Approval of: Registered Apprenticeships in WIOA policy**  
**Brigitte motions to approve, Paul seconds. Nobody opposed, motion passes.**

7:35 – 8:20 AM Colorado Talent Pipeline Report – Mesa County Focus (Caitlin McKennie - CWDC)

"Top Jobs" meet 3 criteria: Projected high net annual openings, above average growth rates, and a "good wage" efficient at covering life's expenses. 2021 Tier 1 Job: \$31.19/hr Tier 2 Job: \$16.35/hr. Colorado's living wage has increased due to MIT's adjusted methodology, market competitiveness & inflation. Mesa County is still marginally affordable compared to other counties in Colorado. Colorado's top posted occupations are: truck drivers, registered nurses, software developers, retail sales and our top sought-after skills are: planning, detail oriented, innovation, leadership, problem solving, operations, customer service, communication. We are partnering with "Bridging the Talent Gap" and focusing on retail, healthcare, IT, and advanced manufacturing. The most important skills to employer respondents are currently: teamwork, communication, orientation to detail, service orientation, critical thinking, organizing and planning. Colorado's job recovery rate has rebounded to 89% and at a faster rate than the rest of the US. Individuals with disabilities are recovering faster than people without in the labor force and 12.1% of Coloradans identify as living with a disability. Critical Industry labor shortages in 3 areas:

Behavioral Health which has a 12% employment demand growth rate projection.



Workforce Development *is* Economic Development

512 29 ½ Rd  
Grand Junction, CO 81504

---

Direct care job openings grew 3% in 2020 with an annual average salary of \$30,000 (slightly above the poverty threshold)

Education ranks 7<sup>th</sup> for highest employment levels and is projected to grow 10% by 2030.

Transportation & material moving: 9% employment demand growth rate projection by 2030 and the median annual earnings \$37k.

Mesa County Specific:

Our population grew by 7k over the last 5 years and is projected to grow 6k over the next 5 years. Regional employment is at 70k and projected to grow by 6k over the next 5 years. Mesa County is out-pacing the national job growth rate. Mesa's educational attainment shows 19% bachelors, 10% graduate degree and 26% some college. The Educational Pipeline shows CMU total graduates in 2020 were at 1,951, with 609 from Intellitec, and 36 from the Salon Professional Academy.

8:20 – 8:35 AM Workforce Center Volume Report and Economic Overview (Included in attachments) – Curtis Englehart

February Volume Report shows a slight drop in total volume, total job orders and the number of job openings. 101 Work-based learnings completed for adults, and we are on pace to meet the goal of 145.

The Dislocated Workers program already met their goal, the youth program is at 51 with goal of 97. The RUN grant is at 72 enrollments currently and will be increasing quite a bit as we roll out new programs. The WFC has completed 15 hiring events & job fairs with 420 total attendees. 57 workshops have been completed with 135 attendees. Q3 2021 shows \$50 increase in average weekly wage and average employment increased by 3400. Unemployment rates are heading in the right direction. We historically see a large spike in January for UI, this year we are at 4.5%, compared to 7.9% in January 2020. The Unemployment by Industry report shows the most impacted industries are: construction, retail and health care. Our Location Quotient Top 5: energy, construction, healthcare, accommodation/food service, and retail.

8:30-9:00 AM Program and Sub Committee updates:

- CareerLink (Diane Schwenke)  
We revamped the way we're doing meetings, instead of updates we are doing a deep dive into programs and coming together as a group to support and align. We completed this for KickStart and Job shadowing with CMU/SD51, and are now working on CareerWise. CareerWise was successful to receive one of the grants that the WFC received (innovation grant) and we are using it to incentivize employers to apply and will cover the costs to take on an apprentice.
- ED First Responders (Diane Schwenke)  
No update.
- Grand Valley Career Fair – April 27<sup>th</sup> 1pm-5pm @ Lincoln Park  
There is plenty of room for more employers, look for QR code on flyer to register

9:00 AM

Adjourn



Workforce Development *is* Economic Development

512 29 ½ Rd  
Grand Junction, CO 81504

---

- ❖ Items in ***Bolded Italics*** require a vote
- ❖ Attachments: Registered Apprenticeships in WIOA policy; Workforce Center Volume Report and Economic Overview; 7/21; 9/21; 1/22 WDB Meeting minutes'