

# Meeting Minutes: Apprenticeship Advisory Board

Approved minutes can be viewed at: <https://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/apprenticeship-advisory-board>.

Date: April 11, 2024  
Time: 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Minutes prepared by: Grace Ouellette  
Location: Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry  
443 Lafayette Road N  
St. Paul, MN 55155

## Attendance

### Members Present:

Don Mullin, Chair  
Mary Berg  
Tom Dicklich  
Norma Miller  
Sara T. Paul  
Melissa Stachovich  
Tim Sturdivant  
Sophie Thaden  
Erin Larsen

### Attendees:

Lynn Anderson  
Derrick Atkins  
Dwayne Benson  
Matt Campanario  
Naomi Cowan  
Michelle Drier  
Tim Garcia  
Adam Hanson  
Nick Judge  
Wally Kirchoff  
Mary Larson  
Rick Martagon  
Dan McGuire

### Attendees (cont.)

Darcus Mitchell  
Paul Nikstad  
Nicole O'Connor  
Joe Palewicz  
Jeremy Parker  
Andrew Richmond  
Steve Tuhy

## 1. The meeting was called to order by Don Mullin at 1:30 p.m.

- Welcome-Chair
- Erin Larsen took roll call-Chair directed the record reflect those members in attendance.

## 2. Approval of Proposed Agenda

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the April 11, 2024, Apprenticeship Advisory Board Meeting Agenda.

## 3. Approval of January 16, 2024, Board Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the January 16, 2024, board minutes.

## 4. Department of Labor and Industry Greeting and Update

Kate Perushek, Deputy Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry

- Apprenticeship Division recently submitted formula and competitive grant applications for federal funding.
- DLI policy proposal for apprenticeship will be taken up in conference committee in the coming weeks.
- Women's Economic Security Act (WESA) was signed in 2014 and included additional funding for the Labor Education Advancement Program (LEAP) grants. The 10-year anniversary on May 13<sup>th</sup> and a celebratory event is planned at the Minnesota Senate Building. The event will include video highlights of an apprentice from the Carpenters training program.

## 5. Board Member Updates

- Board members provided information on current apprenticeship-related initiatives they support.
- Members highlighted several programs:
  - Several board members participated in school visits and job fairs to promote apprenticeship.
  - National Youth Apprenticeship Week is scheduled for May 5-11.
  - Building Strong Communities graduated more than 100 individuals from their most recent program.
  - Urban League advocated for 13 people and two are already employed.
  - North Branch Area Schools is developing a registered teacher apprenticeship.
  - The Minnesota Rural Electric Association is hosting two hot lines schools over the course of April.
  - The Minnesota Cement Masons 633 recently celebrated the graduation of 20 apprentices.
  - The Minnesota Mechanical Contractors Association put forward comments to US DOL regarding national proposed rulemaking and supported DLI's position related to CTE apprenticeships.

## 6. LEAP Grant Spotlight: Minneapolis Electrical JATC

Derrick Atkins, Training Director | Nicole O'Connor, Workforce Coordinator, Minneapolis Electrical JATC

- Provided overview of LEAP grant activities at Minneapolis Electrical JATC.
- Described development of a structured pre-apprenticeship program and increased outreach. The program's Summer 2024 goal is to enroll 30 people of color and women into the program.

## 7. Minnesota Department of Education Youth Apprenticeship Programs

Mary Berg, Work-based Learning Specialist, MN Department of Education

- Provided an overview of youth apprenticeship programs administered through the Minnesota Department of Education
- Provided update on National Youth Apprenticeship Week (YAW) is scheduled May 5-11, 2024.

## 8. Apprenticeship Outreach

Naomi Cowan, Outreach & Education Coordinator of Apprenticeship, MN Department of Labor and Industry

- Provided update on strategic plan for providing targeted outreach on registered apprenticeship.
- Connections have been made with new community-based organizations, work-based learning coordinators, and individuals at the Department of Corrections.

## 9. Apprenticeship Minnesota Program Update

Erin Larsen, Apprenticeship Director, MN Department of Labor and Industry

- Provided update on current apprenticeship statistics and demographics.
- Provided update on US DOL's proposed rulemaking regarding apprenticeship regulations. US DOL continues to review public comments. Regulations will go into effect 90 days after the final rule is posted.
- Provided update on proposed changes to Chapter 178 moving through the legislative process. If passed, changes will go into effect August 1, 2024.
- US DOL will conduct a state apprenticeship agency review of Minnesota in July 2024 to ensure conformity with 29 CFR parts 29 and 30.
- Apprenticeship Minnesota submitted grant applications for two grants including one for formula funding for \$998,712 and one for competitive funding for \$4.7 million.
- LEAP Grant awards will be announced in early May.
- Clean Economy Occupation Grants will be announced in early May.

## 10. Adjournment

- A motion was made, seconded, and moved to adjourn.
- Next meeting will be Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.