

DAVIDSONWORKS BOARD ANNUAL MEETING
Minutes

- DATE:** Thursday, August 31, 2017
- TIME:** 8:00 A.M.
- PLACE:** Yarborough Restaurant
- MEMBERS:** Board Chair – Neal Grimes, Vice Chair-Jane Murphy, Don Clinard, Lee Comer, Dr. Patrice Faison, David Davis, Dr. Russ Gobble, Steve Lineberger, Dan Matthews, Jeff McIntyre, Richard Michaels, Dale Moorefield, Dr. Mary Rittling, Hal Routh, Mike Sharpe, and Barry Sink
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Scott Biesecker, Kevin Chapman, Stacy English, Randy Everhart, Eddie Lothridge, Fred McClure, Steve Moore, Sandy Motley, Pat Phillips, Steve Shell, Ellen Welborn, and Buck Yarborough
- STAFF:** Pam Walton, Brenda Brown, Tim Maness, Eric Torrence, Robin Whitesell, Sondra Willis, Cris Waugh, Nancy Holland, Cheryl Lide, and Wanda Montgomery
- GUESTS:** Dr. W.V. Yarborough, Career Pathways Facilitator; Kathy Cashion, Davidson County HR Director; Jim Crawford, Business Liaison at Yadkin Valley Career Academy; Steve Jarvis, Davidson County Commissioner; Jonathan Brown, Principal at Yadkin Valley Regional Career Academy; LeeAnn Tuttle-Thomas, Career & Technical Education Director for Davidson County Schools; Craig Goodson, President of Davidson County Economic Development
- SUCCESS STORY GUESTS:**
Participants: Jacob Garay, Cheryl Lide, LeighAnn Uddyback
Business Recognition: Leggett & Platt
- HANDOUTS:** Agenda Booklet/Minutes/PY17 Meeting Calendars

RECAP of August 31, 2017 Meeting

1. Board Chair-Neal Grimes called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for his or her attendance
2. Minutes from the May 25, 2017 were approved
3. Success stories were celebrated with our special guests
4. Neal Grimes & Pam Walton recognized and thanked staff, partners, and Board members

I. Welcome

Board Chair – Neal Grimes called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for his or her attendance. Commissioner Steve Jarvis gave the invocation.

II. Business Session

While Breakfast was being served, Neal Grimes, recognized Steve Jarvis, Davidson County Commissioner; Kathy Cashion, Davidson County HR Director; Dr. W.V. Yarborough, Career Pathways Facilitator; LeeAnn Tuttle-Thomas, Career & Technical Education Director for Davidson County Schools, and Jonathan Brown, Principal at Yadkin Valley Regional Career Academy.

Neal informed WDB members and guests that DavidsonWorks will officially relocate on September 11th to 220 East 1st Street. We are honored to have the crew that helped renovate the building in attendance today. The crew consists of Chris Elliott, Brandon Ball, Charlie Brushwood, Terry Hartley, Tim Phelps, and Doug Malloy.

The next WDB meeting will be held at the new location on October 26th.

Minutes from the May 31, 2017 meeting were approved.

III. Celebrating Success

Presentations were made highlighting the successes of the DavidsonWorks' Workforce Development program participants.

Business Success – Leggett and Platt

Tim Maness, Business and Industry Manager, gave an overview of how DavidsonWorks partnered with Leggett and Platt. Mr. Randy Everhart was scheduled to present, but due to a recruiting event at DavidsonWorks office, he was unable to be attend.

Leggett & Platt of Linwood, as a division of the Fashion Bed Group, supplies a wide range of bedding components. In operation since it purchased Hooker Furniture in 1972, the Linwood facility remains a leading producer of bed frames, rollaway beds, pedestal beds, and Pop/Top Springs.

During program year 2016, Leggett & Platt, DavidsonWorks, and the NCWorks Career Center of Lexington worked together to host or promote several recruitment events held at the Lexington Career Center and Leggett & Platt. In one instance, the company had an immediate need to hire 75 employees due to a weather related shutdown at its Dallas, Texas facility. Company personnel allotted three weeks of recruitment events to fill the 75 openings. Working together, Leggett & Platt and career center staff promoted the recruitment events. The company was able to recruit enough candidates in one week to fill the vast majority of its openings. A special thanks goes out to Randy Everhart, HR Manager with Leggett & Platt for partnering with the NCWorks Career Center to meet the company's recruitment needs.

The recruitment efforts of the company and career center illustrate how businesses can partner with workforce development to meet their employment needs.

Youth Teen Success – Jacob Garay

Eric Torrence, Career Development Consultant, introduced Jacob Garay, a youth participant in the Get REAL Program.

Jacob Garay enrolled in the Get REAL Program in May 2016. Jacob and his family moved to the area from Gallatin, Tennessee, where he had completed six high school credits that transferred into the Get REAL Program.

Jacob came in eager to work and wanted to complete the adult high school program. His attendance was good and so was his attitude toward school and his peers. As Jacob grew comfortable with his surroundings, his TABE scores increased, and he was able to complete several credits at the beginning of the school year. Because Jacob was WIOA eligible, he was able to participate in the work experience program at the Lexington YMCA. He proved to be a real asset to the YMCA; he had good work ethics and always showed respect to his coworkers.

Jacob was also involved in several activities at school, which allowed his leadership abilities to shine; soon he was nominated to be on the Student Government Association. Jacob continued improving in the classroom by working hard and helping his classmates in any way he could and was elected as Vice President of the SGA.

Jacob also participated in the North Carolina Youth Summit in April this year. This was a two day event that allowed the students to stay overnight at the Embassy Suites in Cary, NC. After the opening session, Jacob had the opportunity to meet with the mayor of Cary– he talked with him one on one, and took several pictures with the mayor. Shortly afterward, Jacob was elected President of the SGA, which allowed him to attend Youth Council meetings to give updates on the activities at Get REAL.

Jacob decided to work on his High School Equivalency and on July 28th, he completed his quest and is now a Get REAL graduate! He will be attending DCCC in the fall where he will be sponsored by DavidsonWorks.

This young man has really been an asset to the Get REAL program and will do very well in the future.

Adult/Dislocated Worker Success – Cheryl Lide

Robin Whitesell, Career Development Consultant, introduced Cheryl Lide who was a Dislocated Worker participant in a WIOA sponsored training program and is now employed at DavidsonWorks.

In 2015, Cheryl Lide found herself in a dilemma that she had not planned for... moving to a new community to help care for her aging mother. The new job market proved to be taxing for Cheryl as she found it was difficult competing with technology-savvy millennials. Cheryl expressed that not only was she likely “aging out” of her previous profession, but she was decidedly “old school” in her approach to navigating the workforce. Nevertheless, she still had the responsibility to continue to support herself and her family financially. She explained

that she wanted to find a softer landing place, one that would assist in her efforts to “reinvent” herself. Cheryl found that softer landing place and support at DavidsonWorks. She discovered DavidsonWorks was full of people that cared and encouraged her on her journey. While Cheryl was job searching in the Resource Room, she applied for the DavidsonWorks training scholarship program participating in a Professional Office Practices (POP) class provided by DCCC. In the POP class, Cheryl updated her Microsoft Office and customer service skills. Once she successfully completed the class, Cheryl participated in the work experience program through DavidsonWorks at the West Davidson Public Library. Cheryl’s interest and passion in education was a good fit for the library’s children’s summer reading program where she was offered a permanent part-time position.

During that same time, the DavidsonWorks Resource Room staff was undergoing some staffing changes and needed an outstanding customer service professional. The staff immediately identified Cheryl as an ideal candidate and she was hired in September 2016 as the newest member of the DavidsonWorks team. Cheryl has proven herself to be a tremendous asset to DavidsonWorks and to the residents of Davidson County. Customers appreciate her friendly smile and ability to relate to their own employment journeys.

Former Offender Success – LeighAnn Uddyback

Wanda Montgomery, Career Development Consultant, introduced LeighAnn Uddyback who was an Adult participant in a WIOA sponsored training program.

I (Wanda) first met LeighAnn Uddyback in October of 2016. Even though she had just secured a job at the local McDonald’s, she visited DavidsonWorks to job search for something that would pay more and offer more stability. After meeting with her, LeighAnn attended an assessment to determine her interests, strengths, and abilities. LeighAnn scored extremely well on reading, language, and math, and showed a very strong aptitude for learning, and she was interested in going to school. Her main interest was truck driving.

I have had many male truck driving students, but this would be my first female student. As a case manager, we not only determine eligibility, we also determine feasibility to make sure a customer will be successful in their chosen employment field. For truck drivers, we try to ensure that the customer can stay on the road for long periods of time because most entry-level truck driving jobs require it. My concern about LeighAnn was that she would not want to leave her family for long periods because she had just been reunited with them after a seven-year incarceration.

After much more discussion, and LeighAnn completing some career research, I decided to enroll her in the WIOA program. She really wanted to drive and found that it was a good way to make a better life for herself and her family.

I am very proud to say LeighAnn completed her CDL training and now drives cross-country. It has been a pleasure working with LeighAnn and I am very proud of her accomplishments.

Certificates were given and pictures were taken of each participant with the WDB Chair Neal Grimes and WDB Director Pam Walton.

IV. Closing Remarks

Neal recognized all of the hard work that the staff at DavidsonWorks does to help the citizens of Davidson County. Neal also asked people in the room to help get the word out in the community about the services that are provided in Thomasville and Lexington Career Centers. Neal thanked all of the partner agencies and participants.

Pam thanked the participants and the members of the Workforce Development Board for supporting our programs and work.

Adjournment

Time having expired; the meeting was adjourned.