

**DAVIDSONWORKS BOARD ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Minutes**

- DATE:** Thursday, August 29, 2019
- TIME:** 8:00 A.M.
- PLACE:** DavidsonWorks
- MEMBERS:** Board Chair – Neal Grimes, Vice Chair-Jane Murphy, Barry Sink, Brian Hughes, Catherine Gentry, Dale Moorefield, Dan Mathews, Derrick Swink, Darrin Hartness, David Davis, David Hiller, Don Clinard, Hal Routh, Jeff McIntyre, Kat Barrier, LaRue Cribb, Lee Comer, LeeAnn Tuttle-Thomas, Pat Phillips, and Randy Everhart
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Beverly Swing, Craig Goodson, Darrick Horton, Ellen Welborn, Fred McClure, Kevin Chapman, Mike Sharpe, Sandy Motley, Stacy English, Steve Googe, and Steve Shell
- STAFF:** Pam Walton, Beth Mitchell, Cheryl Lide, Cris Waugh, Eric Torrence, Robin Whitesell, Tim Maness, and Sondra Willis
- GUESTS:** Anitra Wells, Superintendent for Lexington City Schools; Casey Smith, Davidson County - Assistant County Manager; Diane Roberts, CTE Director Thomasville City Schools; Jesse Pratt, Thomasville City Schools Assistant Superintendent; Mary Phillips, CTE Coordinator, Lexington City Schools; Nicole Piggott, Lexington City School CTE Director; Sherri Trotter, Director at Get REAL; Susan Huneycutt, Associate Dean of Arts, & Sciences Education DCCC; Joe Wallace Lexington Chamber of Commerce; Zeb Hanner, Davidson County - County Manager
- SUCCESS STORY GUESTS:** **Participants:** Chase McNelis, Rhonna Woodruff, Melissa Saladrigas (guest), and John Clowney -Bull City CiderWorks
- HANDOUTS:** Agenda Booklet and Minutes

**RECAP of August 29, 2019 Meeting**

1. WDB Board Chair-Neal Grimes called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for his or her attendance
2. Minutes from the May 30, 2019 were approved
3. Update on School Job Tours
4. Success stories were celebrated with DavidsonWorks special guests
5. 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. Neal also gave the invocation.

## **II. WDB Business**

### *Update on School Tours*

Pam stated that a meeting was held a few weeks ago and there was a joint effort between Lexington City Schools, Davidson County Schools, Thomasville City Schools, and Davidson County Community College to host a school job tour. The plan is to host the tours during National Manufacturing Week, which is the first week of October. DCCC has already set aside October 2<sup>nd</sup> as a day to have manufacture employers come to share information with students.

As far as high schoolers, they will leave their designated schools first thing on October 2<sup>nd</sup> to go to manufacturing facilities. Students will have the opportunity to tour facilities, see the operations, and talk with employers. After the tours, the students will go to DCCC to talk with more manufactures, view the manufacture lab, attend pathway presentations, and then head back to their schools.

LeeAnn noted that the school systems want to know how to best serve employers through education and training. Along with informing students, there will be an opportunity to educate parents whether it be during the tour or a career fair.

Pam gave businesses an opportunity to help sponsor the school tours.

Pam and LeeAnn left time for Q&A

### *Vote on Minutes*

Minutes from the May 30, 2019 meeting were approved.

## **III. Celebrating Success**

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

### *Youth Teen Success – Chase McNelis*

Eric Torrence - Career Development Consultant, introduced Chase McNelis, a youth participant in the Get REAL Program.

*Chase enrolled into the Get REAL Program in October 2017; prior to that, he was homeschooled. When he started, Chase needed twenty-three credits to receive his high school diploma.*

*Chase scored so well on the TABE assessment that he was able to start working on his high school credits without doing any refresher classes. He adjusted well in the program and with his personality he was happily received by his classmates. Chase is a natural leader and the students at Get REAL responded well to his leadership skills. Chase also gained the other student's respect with his good work ethics in the classroom.*

*Chase has been a part of the Get REAL Student Government Association since his enrollment. This allowed him to make decisions on trips, activities, and inviting guest speakers; his ideas have been a valuable asset to the program. Along with attending class to complete his high school diploma, Chase also participated in the work experience program by working part time at J Smith YMCA in Lexington.*

*For the past two years, Chase has attended the NC Youth Summit in Cary, NC. Workshops at the Youth Summit help students further develop their skills in leadership and the experience that Chase gained from being a part of this event has given him the opportunity to share with other classmates at Get REAL who were unable to attend.*

*This past spring, Chase also had an opportunity to participate in a continuing education class; he enrolled in a Maintenance Engineering Technician Academy course. He was able to learn how to understand the components of a mechatronic system and the overall operation of a mechatronic control system. During this time Chase put in over 200 hours of class time. This summer he will complete another continuing education class, which is Welding. This course provides instruction on the principles and practices of welding.*

*Chase is a dedicated student who has accomplished a lot since enrolling into the program. While attending Get REAL Chase is being sponsored by WIOA/DavidsonWorks.*

#### **Adult/Dislocated Worker Success – Rhonna Woodruff**

Cheryl Lide - DavidsonWorks Career Development Consultant, introduced Rhonna Woodruff who was a Dislocated Worker participant in a WIOA sponsored training program.

*Rhonna came in as a woman determined to not get just another JOB, but a career. When meeting her Career Development Consultant she said, “I have children and time is crucial for me. I just want to work in the field I know I’m supposed to be in and not feel like I’m wasting my time any longer.” A significant barrier of a distant, justice served, criminal background report posed a considerable threat to her preferred area of study—nursing. Rhonna’s determination to succeed was unwavering and quite admirable.*

*Because of her family responsibilities and urgent need for her provision, Rhonna felt she could not follow the conventional approach to training and participate in an extended program. So a state recognized Nursing Assistant training program, with an accelerated schedule that would allow her to quickly return to the workforce was chosen. This training was in Kannapolis, and though the commute was lengthy, she remained committed and was a stellar student. Rhonna maintained a great rapport with instructors and professionals at her clinical site.*

*She provided exciting weekly updates as DavidsonWorks staff cheered her on. Her progress was so compelling, it inspired everyone with whom she came in contact to champion her cause. Meanwhile, Rhonna and her CDC simultaneously looked for employers that may not be averse to her history. Her hard work and unwavering spirit paid off and within 5 weeks of completing her training and passing the state exam, Rhonna secured employment at Accordius as a Nursing Assistant.*

#### **Adult Success – Melissa Saladrigas**

Robin Whitesell - DavidsonWorks Career Development Consultant, introduced Melissa Saladrigas who was an Adult participant in a WIOA sponsored training program.

*After watching her father’s battle with cancer and being part of the compassionate care of the hospice nurses, Melissa realized that she wanted to be a part of that kindness and care.*

*Melissa's dream of becoming a nurse began 10 years ago during her senior year of high school. Seeing her father battle cancer and watching the hospice nurses care for him with so much kindness and compassion was truly the start of her nursing career.*

*Melissa began the nursing program in December 2017 when she enrolled in the ADN program at DCCC. Even though she was working as a Nurse Tech at High Point Regional, Melissa came to DavidsonWorks in search for financial assistance to help with her training.*

*During the time she was enrolled in the WIOA program, Melissa had to give up her job and extra income to meet the demands of nursing school. Even though she had challenges along the way, Melissa never lost her focus and never gave up. She not only was able to utilize WIOA funds, but also was able to use the Finish Line Grant, a governor's initiative, to help her with monthly living needs.*

*After successfully completing her Nursing program and NCLEX, Melissa is now working in a residency program at Novant ED Department and will be traveling between the Novant Medical Centers. In the near future, Melissa plans on getting married to her fiancé Edward and working towards her BSN. Way to go Melissa!*

#### **Business Recognition – Bull City CiderWorks**

Tim Maness - DavidsonWorks Business & Industry Manager, introduced John Clowney with Bull City CiderWorks. Their company participated in a WIOA Incumbent Worker's Training Grant.

*Bull City Ciderworks received an UpSkill Davidson grant to train three cider production workers. The training provided the employees with first-hand knowledge from experts within the cider making and fermentation field. It helped employees identify quality control issues, will position them for higher level roles and additional responsibility within the company, and will permit them to share best practices with new employees as production expands. As a small business, poised for growth, the UpSkill Davidson grant helped Bull City Ciderworks and its employees become more competitive and should serve the team well as their cider venture continues.*

***Certificates were given and pictures were taken of each participant with the WDB Chair Neal Grimes and staff.***

#### **IV. Closing Remarks**

Neal thanked everyone for attending this year's DavidsonWorks WDB Annual meeting to recognize some of Davidsonworks' success stories.

Barry Sink announced and congratulated Diane Roberts and her crew for opening an Advanced Manufacturing Academy in Thomasville with the Golden Leaf Grant.

#### **Adjournment**

Time having expired, and the meeting was adjourned.