

# **Manufacturing Innovation Fund Advisory Board**

## ***February Meeting Minutes***

### **Department of Economic and Community Development**

February 8, 2018

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

450 Columbus Boulevard, Conference Room B, Plaza, South Tower  
Hartford, Connecticut

#### **Attendance**

- Board Members Present: Colin Cooper, Don Balducci, Kelli Vallieres, Beverly Dacey, Catherine Smith, Chris DiPentima
- Board Members via phone: Todd Pihl
- Quorum: Yes
- Absent: Shane Eddy, Emir Redzic, John Zoldy
- Stakeholders Present: Eric Brown, Bonnie DelConte, Todd Berch, Kurt Westby, Kerri LaMontain, Pete Finnegan
- Stakeholders via phone: Bernice Zampano, Tracy Ariel
- DECD Staff: Barbara Fernandez, Toni Karnes

#### **Minutes**

Meeting called to order by Chair Commissioner Catherine H. Smith at 9:06 am.

Commissioner Smith welcomed the board to the meeting. The Commissioner asked for a motion to accept the December Minutes. Kellie Vallieres made the motion and Colin Cooper seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Connecticut Commission on Fiscal Stability & Economic Growth**

Commissioner Smith gave the Board an overview of the Connecticut Commission on Fiscal Stability & Economic Growth. She noted that its purpose was to develop and recommend policies to achieve state government fiscal stability and promote economic growth and competitiveness in the State of Connecticut. She also noted that the Commission's recommendations would be formulated to:

- (1) Achieve consistently balanced and timely budgets that are supportive of the interests of families and businesses and the revitalization of major cities within the state, and
- (2) Materially improve the attractiveness of the state for existing and future businesses and residents.

Commissioner Smith noted that the Commission's recommendations were not binding but the Legislature would, as a group consider them. She also advised the group that the Commission's report would be released on March 1, 2018

### **Apprentice/Pre-Apprentice Program Update**

Todd Berch reviewed total MIF funding through June 30, 2018. He noted that the total MIF funding was \$7,799,000 and that the obligated to-date amount was \$5,482,170. He informed the group that peer-to-peer marketing worked best. Kellie Vallieres informed the group that the program was working well for her. After some discussion, Commissioner Smith asked what the average tuition for the program was. Mr. Berch responded \$7,000. Mr. Berch then went on to review the instruction providers for the program noting that there were currently 10 providers out of 13 possible. He then gave a report on the program status noting that 139 company applications out of the 177 received had been approved. He also provided a breakdown by county. Beverly Dacey asked that in the future he include in his report a breakdown by industry noting also that Fairfield, New London and Tolland County numbers needed to be increased.

After some discussion, Mr. Berch reported the funding distribution and county location. He then reviewed the program metrics for those company applications approved as of January 31, 2018 noting that 100% of the apprentices in the program received wage increases upon completing the program. Further discussion ensued and Commissioner Smith thanked Mr. Berch for his time and work on the program. She then advised the group that the Board would go into Executive Session. Visitors and stakeholders left the meeting.

### **Executive Session**

#### **Other Business**

After additional discussion, Commissioner Smith asked for a motion to adjourn. Beverly Dacey moved the motion. Colin Cooper seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 10:40.

Next Meeting Date April 6, 2018