

West Kentucky Workforce Board

Marshall Ballard Caldwell
Muhlenberg
Lyon Trigg Hickman **West** Livingston
McCracken Hickman Christian Todd Livingston
Kentucky Todd Calloway
Carlisle Fulton
Hopkins Crittenden Graves

**AGENDA
WEST KENTUCKY WORKFORCE BOARD
VIRTUAL
BOARD MEETING**

**March 12, 2021
Zoom Meeting
Per Governor's COVID-19 Policy
10:00 a.m. CST**

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**West Kentucky Workforce Board
Minutes**

November 17, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Zoom Meeting

Per Governor's COVID-19 Policy

I. Call to Order

The West Kentucky Workforce Board (WKWB) met on November 17, 2020 via Zoom Meeting per Governor Beshear's COVID-19 Policy. Chair Jackie Jones called the meeting to order.

II. Establishment of Quorum

Members or their Proxies present were:

Business Representatives/Workforce Representative Members:

Justin Puckett	Dennis Courtney
Deena Pittman	Justin Nichols
Terri Lundberg	Jason Redfern
Jackie Jones	Tim Capps
Ben Spears (Kim Humphrey-proxy)	Gary Jones
Deb Domke	Crissy Carter
Donnie Holland	Laura Thomas
Sandra Richey	Hayleigh Feagin
Jim Key	Leigh Ann Jarvis
Becki Wells (Carol Kirves-proxy)	Tim Herring

Other Board Representative Members:

Chris Wooldridge	Dr. Alissa Young
Anna Larson	Dr. Cindy Kelley (Mike Davenport-proxy)
Dan Bozarth	Jason Vincent
Jonathon Pendergrass	Jason Cole

Guests present were:

Brittanie Dawson	Hannah Chretein
Callie Drury	Amber Cox
Kelly Gates	John Oliver
Sherri Jones	Cissy Fox
Derek Poor	Kevin O'Neill
Shane Stokes	

III. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Jones welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting.

IV. Approval of Minutes

- A. WKWB Executive Committee Meeting-October 30, 2020
- B. WKWB Board Meeting-August 5, 2020

Chair Jones referred the Board to the October 30, 2020 WKWB Executive Committee minutes and the August 5, 2020 WKWB Board Meeting minutes found on pages 2 through 12 of the meeting packet. After a brief review, Chair Jones called for action from the floor.

Dennis Courtney moved to approve the October 30, 2020 WKWB Executive Committee minutes and the August 5, 2020 WKWB Board Meeting minutes as presented. Gary Jones seconded. The motion carried.

V. Consideration of Old Business

- A. Overview of Current Workforce Data
 - 1. Labor Market Snapshot

Tammy Hyde, Data/Program Specialist referred the Board to the Labor Market Snapshot found on pages 13 through 14 of the meeting packet. Ms. Hyde stated that in September, 2020 West Kentucky's unemployment rate ranged from 3.8 (Carlisle & Todd Counties) to 7.2% (Muhlenberg County). Kentucky's unemployment rate for September was 5.2% and the national average was 7.7%. The West Kentucky unemployment rate was 5.4% for the month of September.

- 2. Kentucky Workforce Dashboards

Tammy Hyde, Data/Program Specialist, referred the Board to page 15 and 16 of the meeting packet which is the updated Kentucky Workforce Dashboard information. She noted that page 16 is specific to the West Kentucky workforce area. Ms. Hyde stated that west Kentucky is average or above average with the rest of the state in most categories. She noted that the workforce participation rate for August shows 54.57% or more of the people that were laid off had returned to work and there are over 1,000 job openings in each local area, with West Kentucky having just over 2,000 openings. She stated that customers drew unemployment for an average of 10.68 weeks and about 1,500 customers have exhausted their unemployment. Ms. Hyde stated that the monthly report can be found at kystats.ky.gov and contains useful and pertinent information for interested persons.

- B. Overview of Financial Information
 - 1. Financial Report

Cindy Cummings, MIS/Financial Coordinator, referred the Board to pages 19 through 20 which is the current financial report for the period ending November 16, 2020. Total funds received year to date are \$7,971,624.48 with expenditures of \$1,490,093.13. Ms. Cummings noted that Adult and Dislocated Worker funds are projected allocations. Ms. Cummings noted that Trade funds are over obligated and additional funding will be requested. She noted the Fort Campbell Strong Workforce Partnership has been extended until September, 2021 for time only. Ms. Cummings stated that a staff person, Ebone Ross, has been hired for the McCracken County Drug Court Enhancement program.

C. Consideration of Policy/Information

1. Consideration of On-the-Job Training Contract Ratification

Juliet Allen, Workforce Programs Specialist, referred to page 21 which is the current OJT Ratifications. She stated that staff have been very busy with on-the-job training contracts. Ms. Allen stated that since July, 2020 there have been 115 contracts in place. There are fifty one (51) active contracts and sixty four (64) completed contracts. She noted the average hourly wage of \$17.06. After a brief review of the OJT Ratifications, Chair Jones called for action from the floor.

Dan Bozarth moved to approve the On-the-Job Training Ratifications as presented. Anna Larson seconded. Sandy Richey and Laura Thomas abstained due to a potential conflict of interest. The motion carried.

2. Report on Southeastern Employment & Training Association (SETA) Virtual Conference 2020

Tammy Hyde stated that the SETA Virtual Conference was held on the mornings of October 20 and 27 with two (2) sessions each day. The opening speaker was Joseph Seymour who spoke about making the customers experience meaningful and every interaction is an opportunity to serve. She explained there are three (3) S's in transformational: support, solve a problem, and serve. Ms. Hyde noted that Dr. Chris Chmura discussed how COVID was impacting the southeast workforce and occupations who were most at risk. A discussion on how to serve customers when career centers were closed was very helpful.

Tom Sholar, Business Liaison, stated that the conference focused on COVID and doing business virtually. He noted that a workshop focused on meetings and how having a clear vision and agenda were important. Show support for team members and ensure your words and actions match. He noted that Robert Knight gave a Washington Update focused on COVID, Stimulus Program and Unemployment Insurance. The conference ended with State Caucus meetings. Kentucky's Caucus Meeting was hosted by Sheila Clark who serves as SETA's Kentucky State Representative.

D. Update on Program & COVID-19 Activities

1. National Dislocated Worker Grant – "ER" – Employment Recovery

Sheila Clark, WKWB Director, referred the Board to pages 22 through 24 which are some of the fliers that have been sent out to employers to discuss on-the-job training opportunities available through the "ER" grant. She noted the eligibility is very broad and staff are reaching out to individuals seeking employment to place with. She encouraged everyone to share the fliers to potential employers and jobseekers.

2. Briggs & Stratton National Dislocated Worker Grant

Sheila Clark stated that the Murray Center is still serving the Briggs & Stratton employees virtually. She noted that staff at the center have been provided cell phone to work with their customers virtually and this has been helpful to both staff and customers. Ms. Clark stated that occasionally a face-to-face meeting is the only option to assist the customer. Plexiglass barriers, masks, gloves and other PPE have been provided for the safety of the staff and the customer.

3. Career Center Status

Sheila Clark stated that the comprehensive career centers remain closed. She noted that a virtual Partner's meeting was held on November 16 to discuss the best ways to approach activities moving forward. The Partners discussed the modifications that would need to be made at the center before opening. Ms. Clark called on Jon Pendergrass who has been named the Interim Director of the Career Development Office to discuss the Labor Cabinet's plans for opening the centers.

Jon Pendergrass stated that the Labor Cabinet would like to propose a phased in approach to opening the center. He explained that staff would be introduced back to the center first with no face-to-face customer interaction. Currently, there is no timeline for this phased in approach. Mr. Pendergrass stated that he and Sheila Clark had a walk through at each center with the facilities managers on modifications to the center.

Sheila Clark stated that the goal is to keep customer areas separate from staff areas. Work stations will be moved and plexiglass shields will be provided for face-to-face meetings with customers. Pictures have been taken of resource areas and suggestions have been made for upgrading the wifi and using laptops/tablets. She noted Secretary Roberts has been very supportive and hopefully funds will be available for the modifications. The goal is to have the modifications complete by December 31 and evaluate in January to determine when it is safe to move staff into the center working behind closed doors. She stated once everyone is safe and working under the Healthy at Work guidelines, a plan will be made to bring individuals into the center by appointment only. This plan will be implemented only if COVID numbers are at an acceptable level.

4. Education & Workforce Development Cabinet/Labor Cabinet Roles

Sheila Clark stated that WIOA Directors have had several discussions with Labor Cabinet Secretary Larry Roberts and also a one-on-one conversation regarding our area. She noted Secretary Roberts has been very supportive in our efforts and career center activities. Vickie Wise serves as Deputy Secretary. Buddy Hoskinson has been put in charge of Unemployment Insurance. She noted that Unemployment Insurance, Trade and Career Development Office are now under the Labor Cabinet. Ms. Clark stated that during the transition the Education & Workforce Development and Labor Cabinet exchange information in a meeting every other week. She noted the most urgent need is the funding to modify the career centers.

E Consideration of Other Old Business

Being no further old business, Chair Jones moved to new business.

VI. Consideration of New Business

A. Workforce Innovation & Information-Cabinet Update

1. Education & Workforce Development Cabinet/Labor Cabinet Update

Sheila Clark stated that Deputy Secretary Josh Benton has not been replaced to date. Deputy Secretary Mary Pat Regan is now handling all workforce and education programs.

Commissioner Marty Hammons has been working with WIOA Directors on funding, including National Dislocated Worker funding.

2. Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board

Sheila Clark stated that Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB) Director, Melissa Aguilar was replaced by John Lyons who has been named the KWIB Interim Director. The next KWIB meeting will be on December 17. Mr. Lyons has indicated that the KWIB's focus will be more on education activities..

Ms. Clark thanked WKWB Board Member Gary Jones who will be retiring from his position at Muhlenberg Alliance for Progress but will remain in the position for a few more months while his replacement is sought. Ms. Clark wished Mr. Jones a happy retirement but we would not replace him until he had left his position. Mr. Jones stated that he appreciated all the opportunities and made some great friends.

B. Other New Business

1. Business Services Team Reports

Tom Sholar, Business Liaison, stated that on-the-job training contracts have been very busy. Staff have been assisting with virtual hiring and parking lot hiring events. He has also provided employers with labor market information and wage comparison. Mr. Sholar announced that Business Liaison, Molly Deahl had a baby boy, Jamison, and will be on maternity leave until the end of the year. Melissa Thompson and Mr. Sholar will be taking care of her duties until she returns. He noted that Hopkinsville Community College (HCC) is gearing up for their next Hop FAME class. Employers that are interested should contact Carol Kirves or Lea Martin at HCC for additional information. Mr. Sholar stated that this was a great opportunity for both the employer and the student.

Mary Anne Medlock, Business Liaison, stated that she has been focused on three (3) projects: job development with employment recovery, on-the-job training and economic development. She stated since "ER" was launched, she has been reaching out to non-profit groups and local government to create positions for those affected by COVID-19 dislocations. The challenge has been recruiting individuals for the positions as many are still unfilled. She noted the bulk of the OJT contracts are former Briggs & Stratton employees. Ms. Medlock also worked with a company to assist with a shift differential. Ms. Medlock distributed a survey to the manufacturers in the Purchase area and 18 companies provided information in exchange for the report. She provided all the companies with a statistical analysis, and the company originally requesting the information raised their shift differential to \$.80 to be more competitive.

Sheila Clark introduced Ebone Ross who has been named the Workforce Specialist for the McCracken County Drug Court Grant. Ms. Ross will be working with the career center job coaches and the drug court. Ms. Clark thanked Melissa Thompson, the face behind the technology, for her assistance with the new COVID environment. Ms. Clark thanked the board for continuing to participate and meet the requirements of the Board during this time of crisis.

VII. Adjournment

Being no further new business, Chair Jones moved to adjournment

Gary Jones moved to adjourn the meeting. Tim Capps seconded. The motion carried.

Gary Jones, Secretary

Date

**West Kentucky Workforce Board
Executive Committee
Minutes**

Mach 1, 2021
10:00 a.m.
Zoom Meeting

Per Governor's COVID-19 Policy

I. Call to Order

The West Kentucky Workforce Board Executive Committee met on March 1, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. CST, via Zoom Meeting per Governor Beshear's COVID-19 Policy. Chair Jackie Jones called the meeting to order.

II. Establishment of Quorum

Members or their Proxies present were:

Dennis Courtney	Phillip Bean
Dan Bozarth	Troy Courtney
Jackie Jones	Kevin O'Neil youth proxy
Todd Cooper (Ex-Officio-Purchase CLEO)	

III. Approval/Review of Minutes

A. Executive Committee Meeting-February 11, 2021

Chair Jones referred the Committee to the February 11, 2021 WKWB Executive Committee meeting minutes found in the meeting packet. After a brief review, Chair Jones called for action from the floor.

Dennis Courtney moved to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2021 WKWB Executive Committee. Troy Courtney seconded. Motion carried.

IV. Consideration of Old Business

A. Virtual Bus Tour

Sheila Clark, WKWB Director discussed the Virtual Bus Tour to be held Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Sheila Clark discussed who would talk about West Kentucky's segment of the tour. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor were working on an event to come out to the local areas. They feel there is a great need to put people back to work. They want to draw attention to the career centers and job openings available in the area. West Kentucky will join with Green River, which is within our region. The tours will start next week and go for three days. West KY and Green River will be Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. CST. We will have an agenda with a PowerPoint. Each partner entity will talk about their services. Ex: Voc Rehab will talk about their agency and their services, etc. KWIB Director John Lyons and Debbie Dennison is heading the event with the

Governor's office. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor will do the welcome then the different entities will start their discussion. The workforce board will complete the discussion. We will talk about job openings, re-entry, second chance employment; business service teams will discuss the different industries that have job openings. The state will be happy to work with us on anyone from the board that we would like to speak. We will be assisting with the advertising of the virtual bus tour. Will be sending out more information throughout the week. Jackie Jones asked if there was any feedback when advertising is released to the public. Melissa Thompson, Workforce Liaison/Media & Communication Outreach stated we post on social media and there are lots of shares on job fairs, hiring events, etc. We try to post it immediately then share it closer to the event. We have been successful on getting events noticed when we put it on Facebook and Twitter.

Sheila Clark discussed upcoming policies relating to procurement of fiscal agent, one stop operator, and direct services provider. The fiscal agent is the Pennyriple Area Development District; they had to procure and compete. The One Stop Operator is the Purchase Area Development District and they had to procure and compete to be awarded the contract. The Direct Service Provider is the Purchase Area Development District and they had to procure and compete. The law says the Chief Local Elected Officials (CLEO's) can designate the fiscal agent. The State has added policies beyond the law. The directors requested the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet to reconsider any requirements beyond the law. The state attorney's concern focused on conflict of interest and administrative ethics per their statement to the Directors. However, the Cabinet agreed to allow the fiscal agent to be designated. The Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board had not previously agreed to this and they will have to make a decision on this. We are expecting the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet to send out a set of policies on conflict of interest, administrative ethics, and comment on the relationship to board staff. The interlocal agreement may need to be modified and resigned. We will await directions from the state on it.

B. Other Old Business

Being no further old business, Chair Jones moved to new business.

V. Consideration of New Business

A. One Stop Operator RFP

One Stop Operator RFP – Sheila Clark discussed the dates and timeframes of the release of the RFP. We hope to have it to the state for their review early this week. It will be released on March 12, 2021. WIOA Direct Services RFP

Once state staff review the One Stop Operator and WIOA Direct Services proposals and we get the approval, the RFP's will be released on March 12, 2021.

Dan Bozarth moved to approve the One Stop Operator and the WIOA Direct Services Release for Proposals to be submitted to the state for approval and release to the public. Troy Courtney seconded.

Sheila Clark reported she spoke with Mike Foster, Board Attorney, about extending the youth contracts for one more year as the contracts had been operational for 4 years of a potential 5 years. Under COVID, it has been very difficult for the providers to be in their offices and to have youth take advantage of training and work experience opportunities.

Dan Bozarth moved to approve the extensions of the current WIOA Youth contracts for one year as the local providers had only operated the current youth contracts for four years when five years could be operated. Dennis Courtney seconded. Discussion centered on maintaining current providers during the pandemic when the five-year option existed. Motion passed.

B. Frankfort Updates/Legislation

There are two bills being brought up. Senate Bill 276 and House Bill 367. Everyone feels there will be little impact from these bills at this time. No one has put a cost with the bill.

Dennis Courtney asked about the SETA conference for Spring 2021. Sheila stated it was cancelled for spring. SETA is doing two virtual sessions, one on February 23, 2021 and the other is scheduled for March 30, 2021. The fall of 2021, SETA conference is set for September 26 – 29, 2021 at the Beau Rivage, Biloxi, MS.

Being no further new business, Chair Jones moved to adjournment

V. Adjournment

Chair Jones thanked everyone for attending and called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Dan Bozarth moved to adjourn the meeting. Dennis Courtney seconded. Motion carried.

Gary Jones, WKWB Secretary

Date

Summary

The Kentucky Workforce Dashboard serves as a barometer for Kentucky's workforce ecosystem. Specifically, the Dashboard overviews labor market health, funding distribution, and outcomes of services provided. The intent of the Dashboard is to promote transparency on funding and outcomes, encourage coordinated goals, and identify areas of best practice. Comprised of nine partner state/local agencies and data sources, the Dashboard's metrics reflect Kentucky's workforce and technical education priorities as defined by the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board's (KWIB) strategic plan, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), and the Commonwealth's workforce partners. Data for all metrics will be updated on a quarterly basis following the KWIB meeting schedule (<https://kwib.ky.gov/About/Pages/Schedule-of-Meetings.aspx>). Please note, this dashboard is a live but developing site. On 10/1/2018 a new system was introduced for two (2) of the Kentucky workforce partners. The system is still in early implementation and modification stages. Additionally, its data are currently being cleansed and refined for accuracy.

Last updated: December 15, 2020

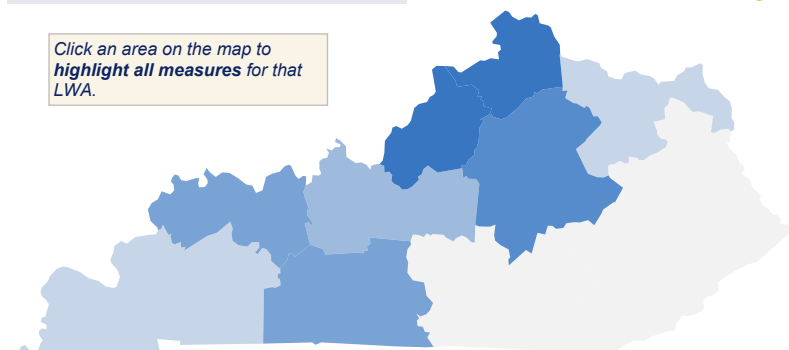
State and/or National Average



Measures by Local Workforce Area (LWA)

Labor Market Health

Click an area on the map to highlight all measures for that LWA.



© 2021 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Labor Market Health

Workforce Participation Rate



Job Openings (October 2020)



Unemployment Rate



Mean Hourly Wage

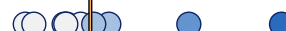


Workforce Funding Distribution

WIOA



Adult Education



Perkins



Bluegrass State Skills



KCTCS TRAINS



Service Outcomes

Employer Outcomes (Year-to-Date)

Penetration Rate



Repeat Customer Rate



Employers Offering Apprenticeships



Employers Receiving Training Incentives



Customer Outcomes (Year-to-Date)

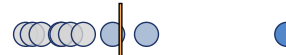
Total Credentials



Reported Job Placements



Active Apprentices



Individuals Trained With Employer Training Incentives



UI Outcomes

UI Duration



UI Exhaustion Rate



Adult Education Outcomes

Percent of Working Age Adults Without a High School Diploma



Adults Enrolled in SKILLS U Without a High School Diploma



GED Graduates



*Metrics may vary slightly between the Overview and Trends dashboards due to quarterly or annual availability of data.

Kentucky Workforce Dashboard

Dashboard Overview

Labor Market & Funding

Employer & Customer

UI & Adult Education

Technical Notes

Summary

The Kentucky Workforce Dashboard serves as a barometer for Kentucky's workforce ecosystem. Specifically, the Dashboard overviews labor market health, funding distribution, and outcomes of services provided. The intent of the Dashboard is to promote transparency on funding and outcomes, encourage coordinated goals, and identify areas of best practice. Comprised of nine partner state/local agencies and data sources, the Dashboard's metrics reflect Kentucky's workforce and technical education priorities as defined by the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board's (KWIB) strategic plan, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), and the Commonwealth's workforce partners. Data for all metrics will be updated on a quarterly basis following the KWIB meeting schedule (<https://kwib.ky.gov/About/Pages/Schedule-of-Meetings.aspx>). Please note, this dashboard is a live but developing site. On 10/1/2018 a new system was introduced for two (2) of the Kentucky workforce partners. The system is still in early implementation and modification stages. Additionally, its data are currently being cleansed and refined for accuracy.

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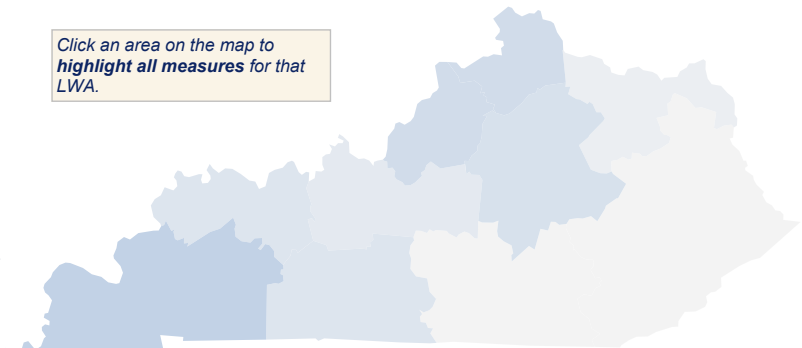
State and/or National Average



Measures by Local Workforce Area (LWA)

Labor Market Health

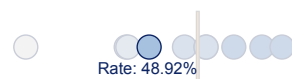
Click an area on the map to highlight all measures for that LWA.



© 2021 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Labor Market Health

Workforce Participation Rate



Job Openings (October 2020)



Unemployment Rate



Mean Hourly Wage



Workforce Funding Distribution

WIOA



Adult Education



Perkins



Bluegrass State Skills



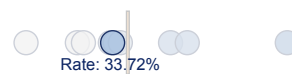
KCTCS TRAINS



Service Outcomes

Employer Outcomes (Year-to-Date)

Penetration Rate



Repeat Customer Rate



Employers Offering Apprenticeships



Employers Receiving Training Incentives



Customer Outcomes (Year-to-Date)

Total Credentials



Reported Job Placements



Active Apprentices



Individuals Trained With Employer Training Incentives



UI Outcomes

UI Duration



UI Exhaustion Rate



Adult Education Outcomes

Percent of Working Age Adults Without a High School Diploma



Adults Enrolled in SKILLS U Without a High School Diploma



GED Graduates



*Metrics may vary slightly between the Overview and Trends dashboards due to quarterly or annual availability of data.

**WEST KENTUCKY WORKFORCE BOARD
FINANCIAL REPORT
For The Period Ended 03/10/2021**

Page 1

	AVAILABLE as of 07/01/20	OBLIGATIONS 2/28/2021	% OBL.	EXPENDITURES	% EXP.	BALANCE
<u>ADMINISTRATION POOL*</u>						
WIOA 2019/20 (06/21)	\$ 111,095.41			\$ 111,095.41	100.00%	\$ -
WIOA 2020/21 (06/22)	321,110.00			36,251.90	11.29%	284,858.10
TOTAL	432,205.41	245,191.00	57%	147,347.31	34.09%	284,858.10
<u>ADULT</u>						
WIOA-Program 2019/20 (06/21)	227,830.66			227,830.66	100.00%	-
WIOA-Program 2020/21 (06/22)	790,306.21			129,106.72	16.34%	661,199.49
WIOA-Program DW to Adult Transfer 2018/19 (06/21)	323,139.65			275,138.06	85.15%	48,001.59
TOTAL	1,341,276.52	1,054,257.00	79%	632,075.44	47.12%	709,201.08
<u>YOUTH</u>						
WIOA-Program 2019/20 (06/21)	216,398.61			216,398.61	100.00%	-
WIOA-Program 2020/21 (06/22)	771,064.30			159,278.23	20.66%	611,786.07
TOTAL	987,462.91	929,692.00	# 94%	375,676.84	38.04%	611,786.07
<u>DISLOCATED WORKER</u>						
WIOA-Program 2019/20 (06/21)	448,843.70			448,843.70	100.00%	-
WIOA-Program 2020/21 (06/22)	1,328,661.85			8,535.86	0.64%	1,320,125.99
TOTAL	1,777,505.55	855,372.00	48%	457,379.56	25.73%	1,320,125.99
<u>DISLOCATED WORKER RAPID RESPONSE- ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE</u>						
WIOA-RR Funds 2020/21 (06/21)	26,130.00			5,454.18	20.87%	20,675.82
WIOA-AA Trade CM Funds 2020/21 (06/21)	126,792.05			58,489.11	46.13%	68,302.94
WIOA-AA Briggs & Stratton Funds 2019/20 (09/21)	500,875.09			142,064.10	28.36%	358,810.99
TOTAL	653,797.14			206,007.39	31.51%	447,789.75
<u>TRADE ELIGIBLE</u>						
Trade-Program 2020/21 (06/21)	365,774.57			241,377.54	65.99%	124,397.03
TOTAL	365,774.57	549,192.00	150%	241,377.54	65.99%	124,397.03
<u>Fort Campbell Strong Workforce Partnership</u>						
Ft Campbell Strong Adm 2018/19 (09/21)	38,158.61			13,392.26	35.10%	24,766.35
Ft Campbell Strong Prg 2018/19 (09/21)	557,642.39			153,005.15	27.44%	404,637.24
TOTAL	595,801.00			166,397.41	27.93%	429,403.59

USDOL-Briggs & Stratton Grant

USDOL-Briggs & Stratton Adm 2019/20 (09/21)	71,709.97	16,782.50	23.40%	54,927.47
USDOL-Briggs & Stratton Prg 2019/20 (09/21)	1,531,209.39	117,567.61	7.68%	1,413,641.78
TOTAL	1,602,919.36	134,350.11	8.38%	1,468,569.25

COVID-19 NDWG

COVID-19 NDWG Adm 2020/21 (06/21)	78,610.00	16,806.23	21.38%	61,803.77
COVID-19 NDWG Prg 2020/21 (06/21)	761,428.80	172,555.52	22.66%	588,873.28
TOTAL	840,038.80	189,361.75	22.54%	650,677.05

McCracken County Drug Court Enhancement

MCDCE Prg 2020/21 (06/25)	33,995.00	6,687.24	19.67%	27,307.76
TOTAL	33,995.00	6,687.24	19.67%	27,307.76

<u>TOTAL</u>	\$ 8,630,776.26	\$ 2,556,660.59	29.62%	\$ 6,074,115.67
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* Administration Pool contains up to 10% of allocation received for Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth funding streams.

Total Obligation includes estimated expenditures of \$175,000.00 for the youth payroll.

January 7, 2021

To the Board of Directors
West Kentucky Workforce Board
Hopkinsville, Kentucky

We have audited the financial statements of the West Kentucky Workforce Investment Board for the year ended June 30, 2020 and have issued our report thereon dated January 6, 2021. Professional standards require that we advise you of the following matters relating to our audit.

Our Responsibility in Relation to the Financial Statement Audit

As communicated in our engagement letter dated March 30, 2020 our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to form and express an opinion(s) about whether the financial statements that have been prepared by management with your oversight are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your respective responsibilities.

Our responsibility, as prescribed by professional standards, is to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit of financial statements includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, as part of our audit, we considered the internal control of the West Kentucky Workforce Board solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

We are also responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures for the purpose of identifying other matters to communicate to you.

Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit

We conducted our audit consistent with the planned scope and timing we previously communicated to you.

Compliance with All Ethics Requirements Regarding Independence

The engagement team, others in our firm, as appropriate, and our firm, have complied with all relevant ethical requirements regarding independence.

The following non-attest services provided to the West Kentucky Workforce Board were identified as potential threats to our independence:

- Assisting in the preparation of audited financial statements and related notes;
- Proposing journal entries for adjustment.

The following safeguards have been applied to reduce the identified threats to independence to an acceptable level:

- Management with the relevant skills, knowledge, and experience has accepted responsibility for the review and approval of the audited financial statements and related notes, as well as for the review, approval, and recording of proposed journal entries for adjustment, if any.
- A Partner CPA of Calhoun & Company, PLLC who has not participated in the fieldwork for this engagement performed a second review of the audited financial statements and related notes.

Qualitative Aspects of the Entity's Significant Accounting Practices

Significant Accounting Policies

Management has the responsibility to select and use appropriate accounting policies. A summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by the West Kentucky Workforce Board are included in Note 1 to the financial statements. There have been no initial selection of accounting policies and no changes in significant accounting policies or their application during the fiscal year under audit. No matters have come to our attention that would require us, under professional standards, to inform you about (1) the methods used to account for significant unusual transactions and (2) the effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

Significant Accounting Estimates

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's judgments. Those judgments are normally based on knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ markedly from management's current judgments.

Financial Statement Disclosures

Certain financial statement disclosures involve significant judgment are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users.

Significant Difficulties Encountered During the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management relating to the performance of the audit.

Uncorrected and Corrected Misstatements

For purposes of this communication, professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that we believe are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such

To the Board of Directors
West Kentucky Workforce Board
January 7, 2021
Page 3 of 3

misstatements. The attached summary of misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures were corrected by management.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, which could be significant to the West Kentucky Workforce Board's financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Representations Requested from Management

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated January 6, 2021.

Management's Consultations with Other Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. Management informed us that, and to our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants regarding auditing and accounting matters.

Other Significant, Matters, Findings or Issues

In the normal course of our professional association with the West Kentucky Workforce Board, we generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, operating and regulatory conditions affecting the entity, and operational plan and strategies that may affect the risk of material misstatement. None of the matters discussed resulted in a condition to our retention as the West Kentucky Workforce Board's auditors.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Directors and management of the West Kentucky Workforce Board and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

Calhoun & Company, PLLC

Calhoun & Company, PLLC
January 7, 2021

OJT Ratification 2020-2021 Summary Page

Contract Name	Master Contract			INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTS				
	Number of Positions filled	Total Funds Available	Remaining Funds Available*	Number Active	Average Training Hours	Average Wage	Status * (ITA Ends)	Number Completed
3A Composites USA, Inc.	1 of 3	\$17,500.00	\$ 16,520.37	0		\$ 24.04		1
Brazeway	4 of 12	\$40,000.00	\$ 27,065.60	4	320	\$ 16.35	3/19/21	0
Changes Rehabilitation, LLC	4 of 15	\$45,000.00	\$ 30,780.00	4	480	\$ 12.75		0
City of Drakesboro	1 of 2	\$16,000.00	\$ 12,500.00	0	560	\$ 12.50		1
City of Madisonville	3 of 10	\$60,000.00	\$ 52,647.00	0	375	\$ 13.67		3
Continental Mills	22 of 30	\$80,000.00	\$ 23,534.19	3	425	\$ 15.76		19
Dana Incorporated	1 of 5	\$17,500.00	\$ 14,370.00	1	400	\$ 15.65		0
DDS Glass	1 of 5	\$15,000.00	\$ 12,453.95	1	320	\$ 15.00	5/7/21	0
Derby Fabricating Solutions	2 of 3	\$8,082.05	\$ 4,736.00	1	320	\$ 16.35	4/23/21	1
Distinctive Living	1 of 1	\$3,800.00	\$ -	1	400	\$ 19.00		0
Drake Lighting	0 of 5	\$45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	0				0
Groves Electrical Services	0 of 5	\$29,000.00	\$ 29,000.00	0		\$ 16.50		0
Hempwood Fibonacci, LLC	7 of 7	\$22,000.00	\$ 476.22	4	480	\$ 13.00	5/10/21	3
Hibbs Electromechanical	0 of 4	\$20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	0		\$ 13.00		0
Integrated Metal Solutions, LLC	0 of 4	\$24,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	0		\$ 12.67		0
Kenlake Foods	3 of 10	\$30,000.00	\$ 21,996.89	2	600	\$ 14.29		1
Kenlake Foods (Briggs NEG)	2 of 9	\$18,681.58	\$ 17,042.80	0		\$ 17.45		2
Martinrea	10 of 15	\$50,000.00	\$ 28,278.01	4	480	\$ 15.08	4/2/21	6
Metalsa	34 of 50	\$120,000.00	\$ 50,675.14	8	390	\$ 14.50		26
Pella	1 of 15	\$58,500.00	\$ 53,424.00	0		\$ 16.92		1
Pella (Briggs NEG)	5 of 15	\$58,500.00	\$ 53,500.37	0		\$ 16.42		3
Riken Elastomers	7 of 8	\$25,000.00	\$ 11,238.19	1	320	\$ 16.23		6
Stanley Engineered Fastening	6 of 20	\$60,000.00	\$ 32,644.00	6	480	\$ 18.97	4/16/21	0
TGASK	9 of 38	\$92,207.69	\$ 85,059.72	0		\$ 12.76		9
TPG Plastics, LLC (Briggs NEG)	4 of 8	\$20,000.00	\$ 6,840.00	2	460	\$ 14.00		2
TPG Plastics, LLC	7 of 10	\$35,000.00	\$ 15,282.05	0		\$ 23.40		7
HMS dba Tungco	2 of 10	\$60,000.00	\$ 47,000.00	2	1040	\$ 12.50	5/29/21	0
UACJ Automotive Whitehall Industries, Inc	1 of 4	\$35,000.00	\$ 24,231.20	0		\$ 38.46		1
Wacker Polymer Systemss, LP	1 of 5	\$22,500.00	\$ 4,620.00	1	480	\$ 19.25		0
Worthington Industries	2 of 5	\$28,049.76	\$ 8,229.76	0		\$ 22.53		2
Xpress Transit Inc.	1 of 2	\$8,000.00	\$ 4,640.00	1	480	\$ 14.00		0

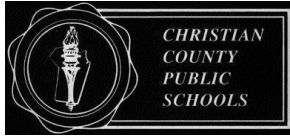
112 Available ITA's*

Average Hourly Wage \$17.28/hr.

*Estimates due to COVID-19 disruptions in contracts - End dates had to be extended due to COVID shut-downs, furloughs to meet social distancing and closing requirements

CURRENT YEAR - Master Agreement Totals	31	TOTAL Individual OJT's	46	TOTAL Completed	94
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2019-2020 Youth Programs



Christian County Board of Education

- Serving In School Youth
- Ages 16-21
- Providing services in Christian County

Contact Person:

Kelly Gates
kelly.gates@christian.kyschools.us
270-887-7401 or 270-889-7832



Hopkinsville Community College

- Serving Out of School Youth
- Ages 18-24
- Providing services in Caldwell, Christian, Crittenden, Todd & Trigg Counties

Contact Person:

Jordan Brock
jbrock0107@kctcs.edu
270-707-3744



Madisonville Community College

- Serving Out of School Youth
- Ages 18-24
- Providing services in Caldwell, Christian, Crittenden, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon & Muhlenberg Counties

Contact Person:

Tammy Hardy
tammy.hardy@kctcs.edu
270-824-1761



West Kentucky Community & Technical College

- Serving Out of School Youth
- Ages 18-24
- Providing services in Ballard, Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Marshall & McCracken Counties

Contact Person:

Anica Smith - Program Facilitator
anica.smith@kctcs.edu
270-210-8164

Contact Person:

Iesha Shumpert - Success Coach
iesha.shumpert@kctcs.edu
270-210-7206

Regional & Local Strategic Planning

PROJECT TIMELINE - WEST KENTUCKY REGION

ACTIVITY	DATE	NOTES
Received information regarding updating the local and regional plan	February 11, 2021	
Edits to narrative and data	Mar-21	
WKWB Staff Review & Discussion with Green River Area	March 9-10, 2021	Review and discussion of Narrative
Joint Discussion with Green River & West Kentucky board representatives	April 8, 2021 1:30 pm CST	Joint planning meeting with board representatives.
Joint Discussion with Green River & West Kentucky board representatives	April 1, 2021	
Regional & Local Plans Due	April 30, 2021	
30 Day Review of Five Year Plan	Apr-21	Comment period

WEST KENTUCKY WORKFORCE BOARD
WEST KENTUCKY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
ONE-STOP OPERATOR**

**WORKFORCE INNOVATION & OPPORTUNITY ACT
JULY 1, 2021 – JUNE 30, 2025**

Serving the West Kentucky Workforce Development Area in the Counties of:
Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman,
Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, Muhlenberg, Todd and Trigg

Issue Date: Request for Proposal Issued March 12, 2021
Contracted Service Period: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2025
Required Intent to Bid Submission: March 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. CDT
Required Bidder's Conference: March 26, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. CDT
Deadline for submission of written questions: March 31, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. CDT
Response Deadline: April 26, 2021 at 1:00 pm CDT
Successful bidder notified: Approximately June 2, 2021

**West Kentucky
Workforce**



300 Hammond Drive,
Hopkinsville, KY 42240

<https://www.wkworkforce.work>



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR
WEST KENTUCKY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA
ONE STOP OPERATOR
WORKFORCE INNOVATION & OPPORTUNITY ACT**

Date Issued	March 12, 2021
Intent to Bid	<u>Required action.</u> E-mail Sheila A. Clark, Executive Director, West Kentucky Workforce Board, at sheila.clark@ky.gov with your intent to bid, including contact information, should be received no later than March 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. CDT. No proposal will be accepted unless an intent to bid has been received by this date. However, an intent to bid does not bind you to submit a proposal. Potential bidders may be e-mailed more detailed information, plus the question and answers, when the Intent to Bid is received. Information for the virtual meeting will be sent out after receipt of intent to bid statement.
Bidders Conference	<u>Required action.</u> A pre-proposal bidder's conference to provide technical assistance will be a virtual meeting on Wednesday, March 26, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. CDT. Participation is required.
Due Date	<u>Proposals must be RECEIVED</u> no later than Monday, April 26, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. CDT. Deliver proposals ONLY to the assigned drop box. An email with the link for the drop box will be sent to you after the Bidders Conference.
Scope of Services	The successful bidder will receive & disburse all funding at the direction of the West Kentucky Workforce Board to fulfill the contracted Scope of Work.
Award Period	July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2025.
Funds Available	Projected funds for FY '22 are approximately \$50,000.00.
Eligible Bidders	Any public entity, private for-profit or non-profit entity that is eligible to operate within the seventeen county (17) West Kentucky Workforce Development Area is eligible.
Limitations	This RFP does not commit the WKWB to award a contract, or to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a proposal to this request. This RFP may be modified with the approval of the West Kentucky Workforce Board.
Questions	Deadline for submission of written questions is March 31, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. CDT. Q & A will be shared with qualified bidders who have submitted an intent to bid. Questions should be submitted electronically to sheila.clark@ky.gov . All questions should note "QUESTIONS" in the subject line. All questions will be answered by e-mail.

WEST KENTUCKY WORKFORCE BOARD
WEST KENTUCKY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
WORKFORCE INNOVATION & OPPORTUNITY ACT
DIRECT SERVICES**

JULY 1, 2021 – JUNE 30, 2025

Serving the West Kentucky Workforce Development Area in the Counties of:
Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman,
Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, Muhlenberg, Todd and Trigg

Issue Date: Request for Proposal Issued March 12, 2021

Funding Period: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2025

Required Intent to Bid Submission: March 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. CDT

Required Bidder's Conference: March 26, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. CDT

Deadline for submission of written questions: March 31, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. CDT

Response Deadline: April 26, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. CDT

Successful bidder notified: Approximately June 2, 2021

**West Kentucky
Workforce**

300 Hammond Drive,
Hopkinsville, KY 42240

<https://www.wkworkforce.work>

 AmericanJobCenter®

 Kentucky
Career Center

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR
WEST KENTUCKY WORKFORCE BOARD
WIOA Direct Services**

Date Issued	March 12, 2021
Intent to Bid	<u>Required action.</u> E-mail Sheila A. Clark, Executive Director, West Kentucky Workforce Board, at sheila.clark@ky.gov with your intent to bid, including contact information, should be received no later than March 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. CDT. No proposal will be accepted unless an intent to bid has been received by this date. However, an intent to bid does not bind you to submit a proposal. Potential bidders may be e-mailed more detailed information, plus the question and answers, when the Intent to Bid is received. Information for the virtual meeting will be sent out after receipt of intent to bid statement.
Bidders Conference	<u>Required action.</u> A pre-proposal bidder's conference to provide technical assistance will be a virtual meeting on Wednesday, March 26, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. CDT. Participation is required.
Due Date	<u>Proposals must be RECEIVED</u> no later than Monday, April 26, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. CST. Deliver proposals ONLY to the identified drop box. After your submission of intent to bid, an email with the link for the drop box will be sent to you.
Scope of Services	The successful bidder will provide direct WIOA Direct services to individuals within the 17 counties of the WKWB. The West Kentucky Workforce Board will direct the identified provider in their Scope of Work for services.
Award Period	July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2025.
Funds Available	Projected funds available for FY '22 are approximately \$700,000.00
Eligible Bidders	Any public entity, private for-profit or non-profit entity that is eligible to operate within the seventeen county (17) West Kentucky Workforce Development Area is eligible.
Limitations	This RFP does not commit the WKWB to award a contract, or to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a proposal. This RFP may be modified with the approval of the WKWB.
Questions	Deadline for submission of written questions is March 31, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. CDT. Questions should be submitted electronically to sheila.clark@ky.gov . All questions should note "QUESTIONS" in the subject line. All questions will be answered by e-mail.

TOP STORY

IAC shutting down Madisonville facility

By Jodi Camp Reporter

jcamp@the-messenger.com

Feb 6, 2021



IAC Madisonville has operated in Madisonville since 1994.

Will Whaley/The Progress

While exact details of the date International Automotive Components plans to close its Madisonville plant, a spokesperson for the company confirmed a shutdown of operations is on the horizon.

“The decision to cease operations at IAC’s Madisonville plant was based on a review of our production capabilities and the competitive automotive landscape,” said Darby Dame. “This was an extremely difficult decision, but one we believe is in the long-term interest of our company.”

IAC Madisonville, owned by IAC Group, has been in the community since 1994. In April 2020, IAC laid off approximately 100 Madisonville employees.

Ruthann Padgett, vice-president of operations at the Hopkins County Economic Development Corporation, said following the April layoff and subsequent downsizing, only 20 to 30 employees remaining at the facility.

Dame said IAC is working with the local Union and Kentucky Workforce Solutions to help employees transition to other careers.

IAC Group manufactures automotive components and systems, according to their website. They have over 19,000 employees in 18 countries with its headquarter located in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Regional headquarters are in Michigan, Germany and China. Padgett is optimistic that gainful employment can be found locally for those displaced workers at IAC.

TOP STORY

MCC aviation program officially launches

By Will Whaley Reporter

wwhaley@the-messenger.com

Mar 2, 2021



Airplanes were parked in front of the hangar that will house the Madisonville Community College's Aviation Program.

Madisonville Community College officially announced Monday the beginnings of a new aviation program being housed at the Madisonville Regional Airport.

The program will give students the opportunity to become a professional pilot through fixed-wing or helicopter options.

“This is a historic day for Madisonville Community College and the regions we serve,” said MCC President Dr. Cindy Kelley. “This is the first flight training program in the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. We have been able to make it to this point with strong community support, the work of the Madisonville-Hopkins County Economic Development Corporation and the leadership of the City of Madisonville.”

Madisonville Mayor Kevin Cotton said he was excited to see the growth and opportunities this program would bring to the area.

“This program is an excellent opportunity for Madisonville and one that sets us apart from other communities,” said Cotton.

Madisonville-Hopkins County Economic Development Corporation President Ray Hagerman said this program will create its own economic impact and will set “the stage for so much more aerospace activity throughout the community and the region.”

Commissioner Todd Bloch with the Kentucky Department of Aviation said aviation in Kentucky is becoming more and more popular.

“The COVID downturn is only going to stimulate this culture and business,” he said, quoting a Boeing report that stated the aviation industry and jobs for pilots are poised for a rebound in the coming months. “Aviation is going to come back stronger than it has ever been before and the need for pilots is going to be greater than it has ever been before.”

Rep. Melina Gibbons-Prunty, who represents the 15th District of Kentucky that includes part of Hopkins County and Muhlenberg County, also spoke at the announcement.

“It shows what you can do when you work together,” she said. “This is an opportunity to get training and education for a good paying job and you can get it at home.”

Madisonville Regional Airport Board Chairman Jimmy Riddle said he was excited for the program to come to the area saying it would put the area “on the map with the other aviation schools in Kentucky.”

“I’m a pilot and I know what it is like to make a first solo flight,” said Riddle. “I’ve seen kids get out of the airplane the first time, and seen their faces. It is exciting our college is going to be teaching kids to make a living doing something that they might really enjoy.”

Emily Herron, the manager of the Madisonville Regional Airport, said she remembers during her interview for the position the enthusiasm about the program just a year ago.

“One of the things I remember being discussed in my interview was the anticipation of this flight school,” she said. “Our city administrator, Robert Janes, and Jimmy Riddle, shared their enthusiasm for this program. I was encouraged by that. None of us could have predicted COVID and the airport industry specifically has taken a big hit. However, we will bounce back. As just a small regional airport, we have seen an increase in private and corporation aviation coming into our airport on a daily basis.”

Initially, helicopter flight training will be conducted at the airport and fixed-wing training will be offered at the Muhlenberg County Airport.

According to a news release from MCC, the college anticipates that both airports will be used to accommodate both programs in some capacity in the future.

As students advance through the program, they will be able to earn academic certificates and ratings from the Federal Aviation Administration for private pilot, instrument pilot, commercial pilot and as certified flight instructors for both fixed wing and helicopters.

To train students, the college leased two Schweizer S300 helicopters from the U.S. Aviation Training Solutions and a Cessna 172 airplane with a Garmin G1000 glass panel from Don Davis Aviation.

Students also have access to Redbird flight simulators, which are housed at both campus locations.

The simulators provide students opportunities to “safely learn in a simulated environment in which instructors can create hazardous weather conditions, severe turbulence, equipment malfunctions and other problems students must solve in the air.”

Applications are currently being accepted for the program.

For more information, contact Aviation Program Coordinator Mike Kehoe at 270-824-1806 or mike.kehoe@kctcs.edu.

SECOND ANNUAL WKCTC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / WORKFORCE TRAINING SYMPOSIUM

“RE-TOOLING POST COVID”

APRIL 15, 2021
9:00 - 11:30 A.M.
VIRTUAL EVENT

This event is **FREE** and open to the public.
Be sure to register!

Once registered for the event, you will
receive an email invitation via Microsoft
Teams with login information.



Paducah Bank,
Presenting Sponsor

HOW TO REGISTER:

Email or Call Tina Clark:
270-534-3821 or tina.clark@kctcs.edu

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- The Role of Economic Development Post COVID
- The Role of the Chambers Post COVID
- The Value of Apprenticeships

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

*Matt Tackett, President / CEO with
the Kentucky Association of Economic
Development*

*Kate Shanks, VP Public Affairs with the
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce*

PANEL DISCUSSIONS INCLUDE:

- Local economic development leaders
- Presidents of area chambers of commerce
- Local elected state legislators



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WKCTC Workforce Solutions
270-534-3335 • westkentucky.kctcs.edu

WKCTC, a proud member of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), is an equal educational and employment opportunity institution.



A Message from Ron Painter

A Resilient Workforce

We often see the reference of resiliency applied, and rightly so, to the workforce in the U.S. I think with the pandemic's first anniversary approaching we should apply the tag to the U.S. workforce development system. The shock to the labor market can not be underestimated and the same to our system. Local workforce boards went into overdrive to maintain contact with their networks, serving employers who still needed to hire, and adapting with their American Job Center staff to revamp their processes of outreach, enrollment and assisting people in navigating filing for UI. The critical work that local business-led workforce boards do will continue to be tested as we re-open businesses and assess the true damage of the pandemic on the labor market. What companies are hiring and what jobs are left? How can our regional workforce development systems respond to the millions whose former employers have permanently closed? Can the trusted relationships we've built with our partners in the system, the labor market intelligence network we've crafted with business and our board members provide the up-to-minute intel we need? I have confidence we can help lead our regions' recovery. Boards across the paths of hurricanes, tornadoes, fires and other natural disasters have shown us the resilience we will all need for the recovery ahead. I hope that through NAWB's town halls, webinars, and coffee & conversations we have shown our commitment to working with you and responding to your needs. Let us know how we can continue to help.



The Forum 2021

We are excited to announce that NAWB's annual event [The Forum 2021 will be held June 24th thru June 26th!](#) Each year, we work to provide NAWB members, friends and workforce development leaders with a high-quality event that will provide opportunities to learn, highlight innovations in workforce development, urge action from Members of Congress to support workforce development policies and provide an opportunity to network with other workforce leaders.

The Forum 2021 also provides two great ways to participate: in person OR virtually. We want to hear from you as we finalize The Forum's program. What issues would you like to see front and center? You can let us know by sending an email to nawbforum@nawb.org.

For more information on the event, including frequently asked questions (FAQs), please visit <https://forum.nawb.org>.

Advocacy and Policy

Congress has passed the President's requested stimulus bill totaling near \$1.9 trillion dollars. As the bureaucracy takes over to implement the bill, much attention turns to the prospect of recovery and what we have been told will be in consideration for the long-overdue discussion of additional funds for workforce development. We've seen estimates from the University of Chicago that 1/3 of the job loss during the pandemic are permanent. Our

intuitive sense is that in any major economic shock that there will be a surge in long-term unemployment. Recoveries don't happen overnight, and even though we expect a surge of pent-up demand to fuel a sharp uptick in employment, and we must help those who have lost their job because their employer is out of business or their job is has been erased. We are working with some Congressional offices on issues in workforce development that they believe to be critical in the recovery. We'll update you more on these in the coming weeks. In the meantime, check out our policy page on our website at: <https://www.nawb.org/advocacy-and-policy>

