

STARK TUSCARAWAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING

May 7, 2025, at 11:45 a.m.

Canton Electrical JATC-Massillon

PRESENT	ABSENT	STWDB STAFF
Marla Akridge	John Aldergate	JoAnn Breedlove
Rick Baxter	Susan Lenigar	Rebecca Harris
Stephen Carson	Marc Manheim	Maddy Miller
Damus Cole	Tracy Sabo	Aleisha Stout
Andrew Fowler	Sarah Spies	
Lisa Gould	Patrice Yacko	LEO
Para Jones		Commissioner Regula
Alison Kerns		
Mike Lauber		
Rick Moss	Guests	
Steve Rippeth	Matt Damschroder-ODJFS	ONE-STOP OPR/FISCAL AGENT
Scott Robinson	Joe Hammers-ODJFS	Chuck Byrd
Joe Sekely	Monique Moore-Governor's Office	Freda Martin
Darren Van Winkle	Bill Teets-ODJFS	Logan Little
		Amy Miller
		Dan Sipe
		Lori Yager

BUSINESS MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Scott Robinson, Chair called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

Guest Introductions..... Scott Robinson, Chair

- **Matt Damschroder** (Director, Ohio Department of Job & Family Services)
- **Bill Teets** (Communication Director, Ohio Department of Job & Family Services)
- **Joe Hammers** (Videographer, Ohio Department of Job & Family Services)
- **Monique Cox Moore**, (Northeast Ohio Regional Liaison, Ohio Department of Development)
- **Richard Regula**, Stark County Commissioner

March 5, 2025, Meeting Minutes..... Scott Robinson, Chair (**Attachment A**)

MOTION: LAUBER MOVED FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 5, 2025, MEETING MINUTES. SEKELY SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Authorization to Support the Comprehensive Case Management & Employment Program...Robinson, Chair (Attachment B)

Breedlove referenced the overview letter in the board meeting packet. She reviewed the letter noting "Authorization to Support the Comprehensive Case Management & Employment Program" (CCMEP) is a document with an official approval/authorization by the local Workforce Development Board that allows a specific employment and support program (CCMEP) to utilize Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA Title 1) Youth funding. This board action happens every 2 years and has been presented and passed in the past.

CCMEP helps young people between the ages of 14 and 24 who face challenges in finding and keeping jobs. It provides things like job training, career services, and other support based on each person's needs.

By authorizing this, the Stark Tuscarawas Workforce Development Board is agreeing to combine WIOA Title 1 Youth funds with Temporary Assistance To Needy Families (TANF) funds, to better support youth through CCMEP during the period from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027.

MOTION: GOULD MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF WORKFORCE INNOVATION & OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA TITLE 1 YOUTH) FUNDING FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT & EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM FOR PROGRAM YEARS 25 & 26 (JULY 1, 2025-JUNE 30,2027. COLE SECONDED. KERNS ABSTAINED. MOTION CARRIED

Host Remarks Damus Cole, Secretary Damus Cole, Training Director of the Canton Electrical JATC thanked all in attendance today and expressed his pride in the Electrical JATC training facility and program. Cole shared his personal journey from college to becoming the training director and the joy of helping the apprentice graduate.

Currently there are 110 apprentices in the program with 20 graduates this year, and the plans are to take 40-45 new apprentices for Fall 2025. Cole shared an overview of the traditional apprenticeship program: 720 hours of related training and 8000 hours of on-the-job training. Cole mentioned financial support for apprentices for tools, books, and boots.

Don Fox was introduced, and he runs the pre-apprenticeship program for the Canton Electrical JATC. The pre-apprenticeship program started last year with a grant to support underrepresented individuals accessing the trades. The program includes classroom and hands-on training with a focus on work readiness. Some of the challenges faced are attendance issues, maturity levels and barriers like driver's licenses and drug tests. The success of the program is that seven of the ten participants completed the program, and the program is expanding to a second cohort. The 235-hour program duration is nine months (September-May) including 90 hours of hands-on work and remaining is classroom training. Pre-apprentice participants can be as young as 17 years old but must be 18 years to be on a job site.

Overall discussion covered the demand for electricians, which was noted as 80,000 electricians needed annually for the next 10 years across the country. The shortage of electricians has impacted local Stark County projects.

Cole reminded all in attendance to participate in the in-depth tour of the facility following today's meeting.

Introduction of Keynote Speaker-Director Matt Damschroder.....Scott Robinson, Chair
Robinson introduced Director Matt Damschroder and presented him with STWDB mug to show our appreciation for attending the Board meeting today.

Director Damschroder provided an overview of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. He noted the emphasis on Governor DeWine’s vision for opportunities in Ohio and the state’s role supporting workforce development. He highlighted the state’s apprenticeship programs including the number of apprentices and sponsors. He emphasized the importance of pre-apprenticeship programs and the state’s efforts to expand them. He referenced and gave an overview and importance of In-Demand Jobs Week, currently underway the first full week of May.

Damschroder discussed the state’s budget and legislative updates. One of the items in the state budget he spoke about included proposals to move community action programs to the Department of Job & Family Services. He noted there is a proposal to require employers to provide contact information for affected workers during layoffs to facilitate rapid response and job placement. Additionally, he mentioned the modernization of the state’s unemployment computer system and the potential for a new fee on employers to fund it. There is an emphasis on the state’s role in supporting local workforce boards and the importance of collaboration.

Director’s Report / Updates..... JoAnn Breedlove, Executive Director

Breedlove thanked Director Damschroder and his team for making the trip from Columbus to join us today. We appreciate your presence and the efforts of your communications team to document some of today’s activities.

Breedlove extended a thank you to Damus Cole and his entire team for hosting us at the JATC. The timing of this meeting is ideal—last Thursday was National Apprenticeship Day, and this entire week is In-Demand Jobs Week. Breedlove referenced the meeting packet, noting a flyer highlighting one of our local success stories. The young man featured is actually part of the program right here, led by Damus Cole and his team.

Since 2020, our Workforce Development Board—through its training policy—has supported first-year eligible apprentices with the tools and supplies they need to begin their journey. For a relatively small investment, typically under \$2,000, the financial barrier of access to such programs is minimized and helps launch careers in the skilled trades. So far, about 10 to 12 individuals have benefited from this support, many of whom may not have been able to enter apprenticeship programs otherwise.

Board Update Highlights

Breedlove referenced the “Executive Director/System Report” previously emailed, and briefly highlighted a few key items:

Business Resource Network (BRN) Update

The Business Resource Network (BRN) was launched in 2012 through a U.S. Department of Labor Workforce Innovation Fund Grant, expanding from Stark and Tuscarawas Counties to 16 counties statewide. Its goal has been to serve as a single point of contact for businesses, connecting them to resources through coordinated outreach and partnerships.

In recent years, we've recognized the need for a modernized approach—one that provides real-time workforce data, tracks business needs and solutions, and better informs our stakeholders. This led to the concept of BRN 2.0.

We're collaborating closely with economic development partners to aggregate employer data more strategically. We are currently hiring a Workforce Solutions Manager to support this effort. This new role will be a Board staff position, signaling the strategic importance of this initiative. We hope to extend an offer by the end of this week.

Board-Required Activities: (Attachment C)

Breedlove noted board packet with a document titled "Attachment C," outlining our progress on required Board activities for Program Year 2025. Notable completions include:

- Procurement of the Job Center Operator
- Completion of the Memorandum of Understanding for our OhioMeansJobs Centers (currently awaiting final signature)

Other required activities are in process, and the Board will be kept informed and involved as needed.

Legislative and Budget Updates

At the federal and state levels, there has been significant legislative activity affecting workforce development. Our anticipated WIOA allocation for PY25 reflects a 5.8% funding reduction, estimated at roughly \$162,000. We are working closely with our fiscal agent on a proposed budget for PY25.

In late March, Breedlove attended the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Conference in Washington, D.C., where Breedlove participated in advocacy visits on Capitol Hill. Materials shared highlighted the workforce system's local impact, specifically leveraging roughly \$8 million in funding with over \$40 million in community wages. These numbers only reflect enrolled participants, meaning the broader system impact is likely even greater. She referenced the Impact Report flyers at each table.

Upcoming Opportunity: OWA Day at the Statehouse

The Ohio Workforce Association (OWA) is hosting a Workforce Day at the Statehouse next Tuesday, May 13, 2025. The information is on your table. Speakers will include key workforce-related committee members, with Lt. Governor Jim Tressel joining to kick off the day at 9:00 a.m. Breedlove requested those that desire to attend to notify her.

General Announcement: Robinson reminded all in attendance that a guided tour of the Canton Electrical JATC is available for all who would like to participate.

Adjourned: 12:36 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: July 9, 2025, 12:00 PM via Zoom