



## Job and Workforce Development Workgroup Minutes

February 25, 2026, 3:00pm – 4:30pm

Boone Electric Community Building (1413 Rangeline, Columbia MO) and via Zoom

---

**BOONE COUNTY**  
UPWARD MOBILITY

**Meeting Objective:** Review existing workplace readiness credentials, begin discussions of structure, and determine information needed from employers.

**Attendees:** Jennifer DeLaporte (Columbia Public Schools (CPS)), Lisa Buxman (Love Columbia (LC)), John Scalise (Job Point), Kristalle Jonson (Connections to Success), Nadia Ryakhmyarullov (LC), Taylor Williams (Central Missouri Community Action), Beatrice Stewart (Flourish Initiative), Joanne Nelson (Boone County Community Services Department (BCCSD)), Gina Jenkins (BCCSD), Enola-Riann White (BCCSD)

1. Welcome
  - a. Enola welcomed everyone.
2. Follow up from last meeting
  - a. The workgroup had agreed to research existing workplace readiness credentials and badges and to start thinking about an internship framework that could be used by employers.
3. Workplace readiness credentials
  - a. The workgroup reviewed a range of existing credentials such as National Career Readiness Certification. Discussion included key challenges with such programs as employers may not recognize or understand local certificated/tokens and they have limited capacity for additional paperwork for follow-up reporting.
  - b. The workgroup also discussed the primary audience of a credential. They determined the employer should be the key audience, since their buy-in determines whether a credential is meaningful in the hiring process. Based on this, the workgroup agreed to build a clear inventory of local programs and skills taught, to compare the list to existing credentials to spot overlaps and gaps, using this information to inform employer outreach and decide to move forward with an existing credential or design one with a more local focus.
4. Partner Updates
  - a. Jon Scalie (Job Point) shared their upcoming banquet celebrating 60 years of service on April 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. Jennifer DeLapotre (Columbia Public Schools) shared the upcoming Pathways to Success event on April 30<sup>th</sup> at Hickman High School with CPS and the Thompson Center. It is a transition fair to connect students with resources available to them.
  - c. Lisa Buxman (Love Columbia) shared “Super Saturday” on March 14<sup>th</sup>. They will be offering 5 classes: Rent Well (all five modules), Growth Mindset, Fraud Prevention, Home Maintenance, and Estate Planning.
5. Next Steps
  - a. During the next workgroup meeting the group will populate the shared document with local programs including the organization, program name, skills taught, and audience. Additionally, the group will cross-reference employers tied to existing credentials (such as NCRC) and prepare questions for targeted outreach on their needs and preferences.
6. Closing
  - a. Enola closed the meeting, reminding them of the March meeting and thanking everyone for their time.

**Next Workgroup Meeting:** March 25, 2026, 3:00pm – 4:30pm via Zoom or in person at Boone Electric Community Building (1413 Rangeline, Columbia MO)