

Women in the Economy Commission Meeting - Minutes

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

House Room 30

Commission: Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck, Rep. Becky Edwards, Sen. Luz Escamilla, Carrie Mayne, Ann Marie Thompson, Judy Barnett, Anne Burkholder, Jennifer Robinson

Excused: Trina Eyring, Sen. Deidre Henderson

Staff Support: Gail Tilson with additional support from Jen Jankowski

Attendees: Melissa Miller-Kincart, Bethany Hyatt

AGENDA	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION
Welcome	<p>Welcome (Rep. Becky Edwards)</p> <p>The minutes from our last meeting were approved.</p>	<p>After one correction was made, a motion was made to approve the minutes from the Apr. 28, 2015 meeting. Motion carried.</p>
Preparation for/and Outreach to Female Students	<p>Melissa Miller-Kincart, Assistant Commissioner for Outreach and Access, Utah System of Higher Education: The items presented are a compilation of the last six years and work of many people. We need to increase the pool of students and prepare them earlier for college. Step Up is a program that was developed through a federal grant to get kids and parents, along with educators, talking about college earlier in students' lives.</p> <p>College Application Week is an event which came about to help high school seniors fill out college applications during the school day, in a computer lab, having help from educators. Seniors should be filling out applications in November. Of those applying, 84% stayed in Utah. About 30% applied to a two-year program and the balance</p>	<p>Preparation can be done through educators and mentors, building a plan beyond high school. After-school programs, websites such as Step Up, posters, parent brochures.</p> <p>Dani Natter, Counselor at Kearns High School, will be invited to speak to the commission this summer.</p>

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	<p>applied to at least one four-year institution. Students need help filling out these applications.</p> <p>The way colleges and universities define residency needs to be streamlined so they are all the same. It would also be advantageous to have a clearinghouse where students only need to submit applications to one place. Waivers should be given to those students who cannot afford to pay the application fees.</p> <p>It would be possible to track students if a system is put in place. We could tell if they stay in Utah and if/when they finish.</p>	<p>The commission can help by encouraging a common application system and making it student-centered. Once completed, it could then pre-populate additional application forms. There would be a one-time appropriation to get it started and then about \$800,000 on-going (estimates from what Texas has done).</p>
Report on Interior Design Certification	<p>Sen. Luz Escamilla, (Sen. Deidre Henderson, excused) and Amy (lobbyist): This is a follow-up to the presentation that was given to the commission in the fall. Sen. Escamilla is the Chief Sponsor for S.B. 298, which seeks to modify the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing Act. This bill would create a state certification for the practice of interior design. This will help level the playing field and allow interior designers to work in commercial spaces over 3,000 sq. ft., without the approval of an architect.</p>	<p>The Public Policy Sub-Committee will take a look at this and make policy recommendations</p>
Sub-Committee Updates	<p>Public Policy Sub-Committee (Rep. Chavez-Houck): We have not met since the last committee meeting. The Public Policy Sub-Committee will be looking at the state certification for interior designers and see what guidelines and recommendations we can come up with. We are also working closely with the Research Sub-Committee in trying to get the focus groups going.</p> <p>Research Sub-Committee (Commissioner Robinson): We met last Thursday and there are three areas we are working on: 1) Continually updating the living document; 2)</p>	

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Sub-committee Updates	<p>Focus groups – we have developed a research question based around examining the experiences of women in Utah as related to the economy. Our timeframe for the focus groups will be: June/July – develop discussion guide; August – recruitment; September – hold focus groups; October – analysis and writing the report. 3) Decomposition of the Wage Gap Information: Natalie Torosyan is working with Voices for Utah’s Children and has become a sort of ad hoc member of a student’s thesis committee. The research that has been done is very interesting and we will hear from them, most likely, in our next Commission meeting.</p> <p>Communications Sub-Committee (Commissioner Thompson): Commissioner Barnum, who has been the chair of this committee, has accepted another position and has left the Commission. Commissioner Thompson will be the new chair and the sub-committee will meet soon.</p>	<p>A motion was made to appoint Commissioner Thompson as Chair of the Communications Sub-Committee. Motion carried.</p>
Process to Replace Commissioner Barnum	<p>Co-Chair Rep. Chavez-Houck: Commissioner Barnum had suggested looking at the possibility of having a male fill this position. The criteria is, the person must come from a company of 50 or more and fewer than 500, and has been awarded for work flexibility or work/life balance.</p>	<p>The co-chairs will meet with Jennifer Seelig and see if that fits with the structure of this Commission. If any Commission members have suggestions as to candidates for this position, please let the co-chairs know.</p>
Good4Utah ABC 4 Report on the Gender Wage Gap	<p>Kim Fischer (video) on the gender wage gap.</p>	
Schedule Next Meeting	<p>Gail will send out a Doodle Poll.</p>	