

INSTITUTIONAL ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

January 21, 2021
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Zoom Meeting
[https://west-mec-
org.zoom.us/j/2549494170](https://west-mec-org.zoom.us/j/2549494170)

*West-MEC's Institutional
Advisory Commission serves as
a valued, consultative
committee to ensure the
district's continual strive to
meet the educational and
talent pipeline needs of the
community.*

Stephen Weltsch, Assistant
Superintendent

Jessica Putton, Director of
Career Services

Preparing Students Today for Tomorrow's Careers

Empower all students to participate fully in the economy by providing
and enhancing Career and Technical Education

MEMBERS PRESENT

Community & Industry Representatives: Dr. Lara Ferry, ASU;
Mayor Tom Schoaf, City of Litchfield; Audrey Skidmore, Nathan
Pryor and Shantel Abberton-Oviedo, MAG

West-MEC Attendees: Greg Donovan, Stephen Weltsch, Spencer
Isom, Chris Cook, Jessica Putton, Lizeth Fils-Aime, Rahsaan Bartet,
Joel Wakefield, Speranta Klees, Holly Medina and Layne Perales

AGENDA

STANDING ITEMS

- **Welcome & Introductions**
Superintendent Donovan welcomed community stakeholders from industry, education, and municipalities and thanked them for their input during today's discussion.
 - Greg Donovan, *Superintendent*
- **West-MEC's Mission and Vision**
Stephen opened the meeting with a purposeful focus on West-MEC's WHY - connecting young people to career pathways by providing learners with the technical and professional skills to achieve economic independence.
 - Stephen Weltsch, *Assistant Superintendent*
- **Communications Update and Feedback**
Mr. Cook provided an overview of the West-MEC website which is in the top 5% of educational websites for ease of use and accessibility. West-MEC is one of the first school districts to showcase a 360 virtual reality video of campuses to highlight career and technical programs to share with students and their families.
 - Chris Cook, *PR Administrator*

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DISCUSSION

- City and State Partnerships

Dr. Isom updated the Commission on West-MEC's strategic partnerships with community stakeholders, including:

- WESTMARC
- Chambers of Commerce
- MAG's Economic Development Committee

Nathan Pryor and Shantel Abberton-Oviedo, representing MAG, presented to the group an overview on federal & state responsibilities, best practices along the region, policy structure and the development of the MAG economic development committee. Mayor Schoaf suggested West-MEC continue growing the relationship with MAG.

- Greg Donovan, Superintendent
- Spencer Isom, Business & Govt. Relations

- Industry Partnerships

Superintendent Donovan shared the partnerships that currently exist and how these relationships support West-MEC's mission. Thank you for continuing to provide West-MEC with additional leads and ideas for strengthening industry partnerships.

- Greg Donovan, Superintendent

- Career Readiness

Mrs. Putton provided handouts and an overview of the career readiness initiatives that are being focused on. She asked for additional input as we work through the following areas for student career readiness:

- Validation of Industry Credentials
Implement a hierarchy of credentials, including: required, preferred (sought after), or relevant (acknowledged) by employers. Our programs provide all students with least one relevant credential upon program completion. Thank you for providing input to credentials related to industries.

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- Profile of a Program Completer
Thank you for providing feedback as we continue to build this profile for student completers.
- AZ Career Readiness Credentials (ACRC) & ADE
Students are able to earn skill badges to their resume.
 - Stephen Weltsch, Assistant Superintendent
 - Jessica Putton, *Career Services Director*
- Post-Secondary Connections
Mrs. Klees spoke to the post-secondary connections that West-MEC students are able to enroll with to seek dual enrollment in our programs. She stated that 50% of our programs offer dual enrollment with a highly qualified instructor that participates in post-secondary connections through MCCCDC that then transfers onto ASU or NAU. Thank you for your guidance as we broaden our connections.
 - Speranta Klees, Post-Secondary Manager
- Strategic Planning
Mr. Wakefield advised that we are in the final stages of completion of our current strategic plan. We have received input from staff, community members and students. He spoke on the current strategic priorities, access and equity, diversion and inclusion, quality education experiences, pathways and business and industry partnerships. He will be presenting the new Strategic Plan to the Board in February which will launch in July.
 - Joel Wakefield, *PD Director*

ENGAGEMENT | <http://west-mec.edu/employer/>

- Meaningful ways to stay engaged
 - Seeking Industry Partnerships
 - Advisory Councils
 - Guest Speakers
 - Participate in Mock Interviews