

**State of Indiana  
Governor's Workforce Cabinet**

**Friday, February 17, 2023**

**Meeting Minutes (Region 5/Noblesville)**

**I. Call to Order**

The Governor's Workforce Cabinet met in regular session starting at 10:00 a.m. ET at Gaylor Electric, 17225 Kraft Court, Noblesville, IN 46260, with Chairman Ryan Kitchell presiding.

**Member Introductions & Roll Call**

*Members Present:* David Adams, Rep. Bob Behning, Maurice Coates Jr (virtual), Robert Coons, Tony Denhart, Dr. Sue Ellspermann, Jody French, Megan Glover, Dr. Katie Jenner, Sherm Johnson, Mark Kara, Ryan Kitchell, Theresa Koleszar, Chris LaMothe, Chris Lowery, Becca McCuaig, Kim Opsahl (virtual), Fred Payne, Paul Perkins, Dan Peterson (virtual), Marilyn Pitzulo, Todd Richardson, Dr. Steve Rogers, Steve Schreckengast, Rebecca Schroeder, Dr. Steve Thalheimer, Tony Vespa

*Regrets:* Joyce Irwin, Dr. Chuck Johnson, Loren King, Senator Jeff Raatz, Dave Shane

**II. Consideration of the Minutes**

Chairman Kitchell asked for a motion to approve the GWC meeting minutes from December 15, 2022. Unanimously approved by the Cabinet.

**III. Opening Comments**

Chairman Kitchell provided welcoming remarks. Executive Director Whitney Ertel provided a high-level recap of recent GWC meetings and regional takeaways and pointed members to the Region 5 Data Snapshot prepared by Fran Valentine of GWC.

**IV. Region 5 Workforce**

Lance Ratliff, Executive Director for Region 5 Workforce Board, presented data points and highlights. The current workforce population in Region 5 is 1,103,171 with 82% labor force participation rate (age 20-64). Hamilton County has the highest median household income in the region at \$96,359 compared to the State's median household income of \$60,794. Barriers to employment in Region 5 include housing costs, disability, children under six, working in poverty and lack of access to reliable internet. 45,313 people (ages 18-64) do not have a high school degree and the region's largest job postings by industry are in health care and social assistance.

**V. Welcome to Gaylor**

Chuck Goodrich, President and CEO of Gaylor Electric and State Representative of House District 29, provided welcoming comments and an overview of Gaylor Electric's business plan. Gaylor employs approximately 2,000 employees at its Noblesville location. Mr. Goodrich shared Gaylor's vision to be the highest performing national contractor of excellence, delivering on their cornerstone of reliable resources, outcomes and insights. Mr. Goodrich also discussed House Bill 1002 and the impact it will have on Hoosiers, and young folks particularly.

**VI. Employer Spotlight | Gaylor Electric: Providing Opportunity through Education**

Jeff Bryant, Director of Gaylor University, presented an overview of the program. Mr. Bryant gave a brief overview of Gaylor Electric, who has done work in over 40 states, and discussed how Gaylor is developing talent, helping place talent with employers, removing barriers and providing a future for the workforce.

Gaylor University is an apprenticeship and degree program. When students finish the program, they walk away with hands-on internship experience and an associate degree through Vincennes University. The program is open to students from all types of schools including public, private, charter and homeschool. Last year, over 60,000 hours of education were completed at Gaylor. The Gaylor internship program, one of the largest in the state, currently has 75 high school students and 50 college students enrolled.

**VII. Facility Tour**

GWC members and meeting guests took a tour of Gaylor Electric and observed students working and learning in the Gaylor Production and Innovation Center.

**VIII. Group Discussion**

Chair Kitchell complimented the Cabinet members on their work submitting final recommendations. Whitney Ertel, Executive Director, reminded Cabinet members of the next meeting date: Thursday, April 27, 2023 in Terre Haute (R7) hosted by Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.

**IX. Adjournment**

Chair Kitchell adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m. ET.