

CEAC Meeting | MINUTES

2/11/2026 | 1:00-3:00 | Meeting location: Michigan Works! Southeast-Jackson American Job Center-209 E. Washington Ave., Ste. 100 Jackson, MI 49201

Meeting called by	Hernando Flowers and Jenny Heath	Attendees
Type of meeting	Standing Meeting	Jenny Heath- Hernando Flowers- Chad Gibbs- Janelle Spieth - Mary Jean Raab- Donald Walker- Frank Norton-Steve Netzel- Jamie Mueller- Tom Pachera- Amber Collins- Nancy Peters-Lewis- Dan Draper- Erika Garner- Shanti Bailey- Elette Collins- Shamar Herron- Valerie Jemerson- Misty Shulters- Sally Clark- Chuck North- Ryan Rowe
Co-Chairs	Jenny Heath and Hernando Flowers	
Submitted by:	Janelle Spieth	

AGENDA TOPICS

Agenda topic Roll Call/Introductions

Roll call for voting members was taken. Five members present, three members absent. Hernando Flowers called the meeting to order at 1:09pm and attendees introduced themselves and shared their title.

Agenda topic Review and vote to Accept Previous Meeting Minutes/Agenda

Hernando Flowers outlined the agenda and requested objections. With none, motion was made by Mary Jean Raab to adopt the agenda and seconded by Ryan Rowe. Motion approved. Motion was made to adopt the October 2025 meeting minutes. Motion was made by Ryan Rowe and seconded by Tom Pachera. Motion approved.

Agenda topic New Voting Member/Acknowledgement of Exiting Voting Member | Presenter Hernando Flowers

Voting members gave common consent for the resignation of exiting voting member, Jamie Mueller. Motion was made to accept Dan Draper as a three-year voting member. Motion was made by Jamie Mueller and seconded by Jenny Heath. Motion carried.

Agenda topic Vote to Accept Bylaw Proxy Language | Presenter Hernando Flowers

Voting members discussed proxy voting language provisions, including the need for advanced notice. Motion was made to adopt the proxy voting provisions by Mary Jean Raab and seconded by Tom Pachera. Motion approved.

Agenda topic MWSE Update | Presenter Shamar Herron

Shamar Herron shared that co-chair, Hernando Flowers was recently promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserves. Mr. Herron shared updates on state and federal funding cuts and their impacts on

workforce programs. The need for private sector employers to join the CEAC was discussed. Mr. Herron also shared there will be a new annual report highlighting the work of Michigan Works.

Agenda topic Subcommittee Updates | Presenter Jenny Heath & Hernando Flowers

Jenny Heath and Hernando Flowers shared updates on their subcommittees, focusing on marketing and apprenticeship opportunity discussions. There was a focus on employer engagement and apprenticeship marketing.

Agenda topic MiSTEM Update | Presenter Donald Walker-MiSTEM Region 2 Director

Donald Walker provided an update on the MiSTEM network that included funding challenges and ongoing initiatives. Mr. Walker discussed efforts to maintain programming and secure new funding opportunities. He plans to create a newsletter to improve communication and collaboration within the network.

Agenda topic MiLearner Wallet Overview | Presenter Steve Netzel-Senior Advisor, MiLearner Wallet

Steve Netzel provided an overview of MiLearner wallet and how current users are implementing the wallet. Mr. Netzel shared the concept of adult skills, proficiencies, and credentials issued by various levels, including industry, and CTE. Mr. Netzel shared how Genesee ISD is highlighted as the leading group in issuing credentials, with Jason Carlisle, the director of the CTE program, issuing completion badges and soft skill badges.

Mr. Netzel shared the holistic approach of capturing all credentials, including high school diplomas, fine arts, athletics, and DECA. The importance of having a digital space for credentials was emphasized and how it allows students to share their records with potential employers. Mr. Netzel shared that with the use of TAG grant funds, some schools, like Wayne Westland, are able to qualify and issue credentials to students.

Mr. Netzel shared that the goal is to get CTE programs in schools and bring along stakeholders to understand the importance of issuing credentials. The journey toward competency-based instruction in four content areas was discussed, with a focus on adult understanding of proficiency and skills. The wallet is designed to be a long-term solution, with students retaining their credentials throughout their educational and professional journey.

Agenda topic Mi Internship Recap | Presenter Chad Gibbs

Chad Gibbs reviewed what the Mi Internship program is and who is eligible to participate. Mr. Gibbs shared that over 80 participants went through the program last year with representation from all five counties and over 20 unique employer speakers presented to cohorts.

Agenda topic Adult Education Update | Presenter Chad Gibbs & Elette Collins

Chad Gibbs shared an update from Ted Kroll, President of MACAE. Mr. Gibbs shared an upcoming virtual workshop that focusing on adult education and employer partnership will take place on February 24. Mr. Gibbs updated that Advocacy Day will be on March 3 and aims to spread knowledge about adult education's impact on the state. The Livingston ESA will be hosting a literacy summit on March 12 that will focus on strategies, fund development, and building effective collaboratives. Lastly, the MACAE virtual spring institute will be on April 23-2 and will feature workshops in adult, alternative, and community education.

Elette Collins discussed on the impact of the 20% budget cut and delayed funding impacted the adult education region and how it led to loss of one program and currently low numbers for other programs in the region. Mrs. Collins shared that Livingston has introduced a new ESL program.

Agenda topic CTE Update | Presenter Jenny Heath

Jenny Heath shared the large grant opportunity for middle school CTE programming, which will expand career exploration earlier.

Agenda topic Youth Programming Update | Presenter Shamar Herron and Misty Shulters

Shamar Herron emphasized the need for employer involvement in youth programming, with the call for more internships and investments in future talent.

Misty Shulters provided an update on Summer Works, the summer youth employment program in Washtenaw county that is targeting 80 internships this year. Mrs. Shulters stressed the importance of employer-sponsored internships. Mr. Herron reemphasized the need for employers to invest in future talent and challenges young people face in finding entry-level jobs.

Agenda topic Information Sharing | Presenter CEAC Attendees

Valerie Jemerson shared information with attendees about the maritime initiative to increase the talent pool for building submarines and other navel equipment. Mrs. Jemerson shared that Michigan ranks low in reading and math proficiency, which is impacting workforce development. Mrs. Jemerson shared how Learning Blade has videos to encourage student participation and showcase skills, with free direct care work training also available. Mrs. Jemerson shared that the state apprenticeship funding was cut, but an RFP is open for new registered apprentices, and a virtual behavioral health career day is scheduled for March 19.

Amber Collins invited attendees to attend Jackson College ribbon-cutting event on Monday, February 16 for the new Applied Technology Center. Mrs. Collins shared that the new center includes 40-foot high telephone poles, HVAC programming, and utility training. Mrs. Collins also shared that Jackson College is offering teachers a price reduction on SCECHs.

Donald Walker asked about the inclusion of students with disabilities in the talent pool and emphasized the importance of not losing this group in discussions about talent and workforce.

Shanti Bailey from MRS discussed existing programs for individuals with disabilities, including pre-employment transition services and vocational rehabilitation. Mrs. Bailey shared the ongoing efforts to support students with disabilities despite current challenges.

Sally Clark highlighted the efforts in Hillsdale county to host a woman in manufacturing event and discuss women apprenticeships. Mrs. Clark shared how Hillsdale was currently involved in a wage and benefit study to help support business growth and recruitment. Mrs. Clark emphasized the importance of having the necessary housing to attract and retain businesses and youth in the community.

Agenda topic Adjournment | Presenter Hernando Flowers

Hernando Flowers adjourned the meeting at 2:41 pm.

**Next Meeting Date: May 20,2026 1:00-3:00 | Commonwealth Center-Michigan Works!
Southeast -Jackson American Job Center 209 E. Washington Ave. Suite 100 Jackson, MI
49201**
