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AGENDA

Energizing Education, Economic Development and Employment: It's Up to Us!

DAY 1 (January 18)

PRE-CONFERENCE MEETINGS (as organized by individual committees/organizations)

- 9:00 Registration Begins
 11:00 Exhibits Open
 12:00 Opening Plenary Luncheon
Kansas Governor Sam Brownback and Secretary of Commerce Antonio Soave
 12:45 Break and Exhibit Visitation
 1:00 *Promising Approaches in Workforce Development: Today and Tomorrow*
Thomas Hooper, Senior Director, Jobs for the Future, will discuss how states and regions across the country face a diverse array of workforce challenges, from engaging employers to developing effective regional partnerships. This address will highlight promising strategies in workforce development for addressing these and other challenges, drawing on models from states and regions nationwide. It will also identify innovative approaches that workforce boards, community colleges, and their partners can consider to address emerging workforce issues, like the changing nature of work.
 2:15 *The Next Generation of Successors: Who's Going to Take Over Your Business?*
Ashley Scheideman, Executive Director, and Rachel Janes, Development Officer, will present Youth Entrepreneurs' (YE) hands-on elective and engaging alumni program. YE fosters values-based thinking, promotes positive character development, and teaches business, economics and Principled Entrepreneurship™. YE provides students a pathway to prosperity, whether that is in higher education, starting a career or creating their own business.
 3:15 Break and Exhibit Visitation
 3:30 *Criminal Records in Employment—Challenges and Opportunities*
Lewis Maltby, President, National Workrights Institute, and Roberta Meyers, Director, Legal Action Center's National H.I.R.E. Network, will discuss 15 employer-friendly best practices recognized by the United States Department of Justice that have widespread support in the business community to address the new and challenging landscape employers face today in dealing with criminal records. The number of Americans with a criminal record now exceeds 70 million, making it almost impossible for employers to exclude them as a potential source of employees. Excluding all applicants with a record also carries potential liability under Title VII, but employers who hire applicants with records face potential liability for negligent hiring. Best Practice Standards and key factors employers should consider to assess a prospective employee's commitment to rehabilitation will also be discussed.
 4:30 Break and Exhibit Visitation
 4:45 *Youth Speak: Out-of-School Programming Prepares Youth for the Workforce* (Sponsored by Kansas Enrichment Network)
Out-of-school programming is preparing youth for the workforce by developing interest in careers, exposing them to technical skills, and providing practice in soft/essential skills. Jodi Grant, Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance in Washington, D.C., will discuss trends across the nation. Then hear from the youth themselves as Jodi moderates a panel including several students as well as Marcia Pomeroy, Director, K-12 Initiative, University of Kansas School of Medicine; Rick Reed, Director, TEEN TOWN, Inc.; and Tracy Keegan, Program Director, Blowing Off STEAM.
 5:45 *Reflections from Day 1 — Eddie Estes*
 6:00 Reception, Cash Bar and Exhibit Visitation
 6:30 Kansas Celebration Banquet sponsored by the Kansas Department of Commerce
MHEC Presentation
Larry Isaak, President, Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC)

DAY 2 (January 19)

- 7:15 Continental Breakfast and Exhibit Visitation
 8:00 *The 2017 Legislative Update*
Pat Roberts, U.S. Senate (Invited); Ed Berger, Kansas Senate; and Barbara Ballard, Kansas House of Representatives.
 8:45 *Connecting the Dots from Community and Technical Colleges to Universities*
Joseph Chretien, Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Bachelors in Technology Leadership Program, Fort Hays State University; Jennifer Pfortmiller, Affiliate Site Manager, Kansas State University's Global Campus; and Greg Belcher, Professor, Pittsburg State University, and Director, KCCTE, will discuss how articulation allows students to update their technology degrees to Bachelor Degrees, helping those with technical skill sets to achieve even more in today's workplace.
 9:45 Break & Exhibit Visitation
 10:00 *Career Pathways—The WIOA Way of Doing Business*
Lisa Dieterle, Region 5 Federal Project Officer, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, will discuss updates regarding ongoing core partner efforts and activities designed to inform and assist the workforce system with career pathway development and implementation.
 10:45 *Employer Input and Benefits from the Workforce and Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA)*
Amanda Duncan, Vice President and Chief Business Development Officer, Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas, Inc., will discuss the importance of employer input in developing DOL grants, including the most recent KAMP Grant (Kansas Advanced Manufacturing Program). She will discuss the grant's importance to employers and how employers access its benefits. Deb Scheibler, Executive Director, Kansas WorkforceONE, will continue the discussion regarding the importance of cooperation between existing workforce investment boards.
 11:15 *Kansas Labor Market Update*
Tyler Tenbrink, Labor Economist, Kansas Department of Labor, will present the latest statistics measuring the health of the Kansas labor market including job growth and industry performance over the last 12 months and analysis of the state's unemployment insurance program, as well as projections of what is ahead for the state and which occupations are expected to be in high demand.
 11:55 *Key Strategies and Commitment — Eddie Estes*
 12:00 Hit the Hill for Workforce Development