



MINNESOTA STATE
Board of Trustees

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

NAME: Outreach and Engagement Committee

DATE: January 28, 2025

TITLE: National Program on Industry Workforce Partnerships

Action

Review and Discussion

This item is required by policy

PRESENTERS

Shannon Bryant, Executive Director of Workforce & Economic Development, Minnesota State

Phil Arellano, Interim Associate Director, Minnesota State

Katie McClelland, Director, Governor's Workforce Development Board, DEED

leesha Collins, Managing Director, Connex MSP, Interim Director, Itasca Project

Allison Jones, Senior Director, America Achieves

PURPOSE

The Minnesota State Workforce and Economic Development division is participating with America Achieves, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), and Greater MSP in a peer learning cohort as part of the Good Jobs Economy project, an effort inspired by the federal Tech Hubs initiative to drive regional innovation and workforce development needs across the country. Through participation in this peer learning cohort, Minnesota State is exploring national strategies for workforce innovation and emphasizing the importance of a formal shared governance process for success. The project for Minnesota State looks at strengthening alignment between education, workforce development, and industry needs, addressing critical labor shortages, while fostering equitable pathways to in-demand careers. By participating, the Minnesota State system will help develop scalable solutions to prepare students and workers for high-quality jobs in emerging markets. Board engagement is essential to affirm our commitment to statewide economic competitiveness and student success through innovative partnerships and forward-thinking solutions.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In November 2024, the Minnesota State Workforce and Economic Development division was honored to be invited by Matt Lewis and Peter Frosch from Greater MSP to join a peer learning cohort hosted by America Achieves, a national think tank that played a significant role in the development of the CHIPS and Science Act and has helped many of the U.S. Tech Hub regions

develop their strategies and win funding. America Achieves invited Greater MSP to participate in a select cohort of U.S. regions working to implement new regional talent strategies through the industry partnership model, as we are doing in Minnesota around microelectronics / semiconductors and healthcare. The purpose of this cohort is to develop a new national best practice that can be implemented, replicated, and clearly explained to future partners such as policymakers and funders who can help us further the work. Several national foundations are backing the national cohort which America Achieves will implement with the Brookings Institution.

This diverse cohort includes nine Tech Hubs awardees and designees and five Build Back Better Regional Challenge (BBBRC) winners and finalists:

Learning Cohort

- Detroit
- El Paso
- Madison – Milwaukee
- Miami
- Minneapolis – St. Paul
- Montana – North Dakota
- New Orleans
- Philadelphia – Delaware
- Richmond – Petersburg
- Syracuse – Buffalo -Rochester
- Tulsa
- West Virginia

**Note: The Build Back Better Regional Challenge is designed to assist communities nationwide in their efforts to build back better by accelerating the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and building local economies that will be resilient to future economic shocks.*

Minnesota State was invited to participate in this cohort as it is imperative for us to have a voice as the state develops a shared governance and creates a strategic implementation model that works here in Minnesota.

The cohort, along with our region, will collaborate over the course of nine months to co-develop an action plan aimed at strengthening coalition governance to advance a good jobs economy. The group meets monthly, with a recent in-person national convening that was held in Washington D.C., in December 2024.