

## South Central Career Pathways

April 12, 2024

Those Present: Karen Wolters, Heather Gleason, Sue Vogelsang, Nate Warden, Mary Shumski, Jed Highum, Caleb Watson, Renae Wolf, Sonja Bowan, Keith Bauer, Emily Roiger, Samantha Schmid, Sara Carrigan, and LeRoy Kiecker.

### I. Welcome and Introductions

Karen Wolters called the meeting to order.

### II. Industry Updates

Renae Wolf reported that the new bed tower at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato will be opening next week. Mayo is planning a hiring event at the hospital for unlicensed positions. Renae commented that hiring is going well which could be contributed to spring graduates and summer employment opportunities.

Keith Bauer indicated that applicants for the administrative positions are going well, however the challenge is to fill technical positions such as radiology technicians, surgical technicians and MRI technicians. Keith reported that Mankato Clinic has partnered with the US Career Institute to train their own medical assistants. The training is online and self-paced over 12 weeks. Six Mankato Clinic staff participated in the first cohort.

Sonja Bowan reported that South Central's Surgical Technology program will start in fall 2024. The first cohort will have eight students.

### III. State Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Grants

**On-Ramp:** Heather Gleason stated that South Central MN will receive \$137,500 in the On-Ramp grant with a goal to serve 34 individuals. Services in the On-Ramp grant include work readiness training, On-Ramp training, Adult Basic Education (ABE), and Navigator services with the goal of assisting students with gaining or increasing their employment or moving on to the Bridge program. Participants will obtain On-Ramp and work readiness certificates. New partnerships in On-Ramp programming include Blue Earth County Jail, Union Construction Trades and Taylor Corporation.

**Bridge:** Heather Gleason shared that South Central MN received a Bridge grant, where individuals learn about career pathways in healthcare, manufacturing, transportation or construction while working on their employability skills and basic skills through contextualized learning. The goal is for participants to earn an industry specific credential and move into employment or advance training. South Central was awarded \$200,000 to serve 48 participants. Summer classes through the Bridge grant, known as SCC Connects, are being advertised. Information sessions about the program are held and students can register by using the QR code on the flyer. Community Interpreter training will be offered through Bridge programming next year.

**Individualized Training Pathways (ITP):** ITP assists individuals that are college ready to start a program in healthcare, skilled trades, information technology, or advance manufacturing. Services include post-secondary training, experiential learning and navigator services. South Central MN received \$187,500 to serve 38 individuals.

On-Ramp, Bridge and ITP grants were recently received and progress on served numbers and expenditures will be shared at upcoming meetings.

**Other Grants:** Heather Gleason also announced grants that were received that will complement the Pathway to Prosperity Grants. Heather shared that the Women Economic Security Act (WESA) grant will provide support and training for women pursuing non-traditional careers. A Drive for 5 grant was awarded to the area which has the goal so placing individuals in jobs that earn at least \$25 an hour in the following industries: technology, labor, caring professions, manufacturing and education. Drive for 5 provides support with training and experiential learning.

**IV. Adult Career Pathways Networking Day**

Karen Wolters invited members to the Adult Career Pathways Networking Day on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The event connects staff from various agencies to each other to learn about resources available in the area and network with each other. The event is held at South Central College from 8am to 12:30pm.

**V. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

The MOU, which identifies partners and describes their roles, is required to be updated during the current grant cycle to be in compliance. Heather will be distributing a new MOU document for partners to sign.

**VI. Next Meeting:**

July 12, 2024, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.