Talent, Education & Industry Alignment Board

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 7, 2025 · 8:00 am–9:00 am

Board Members:

Sen. Ann Millner, Rich Nye, Geoffrey Landward, Joshua Aikens, Margaret Busse, Greg Paras, Chuck Taylor, Alison O'Mahony, Keith Hepler, Mary Catherine Perry

Others:

Vic Hockett (Talent Ready Utah), Jimmy McDonough (Talent Ready Utah), Bryce Nelson (Talent Ready Utah), Taylor Adams (USHE), Amy Andre (Talent Ready Utah), Nycole Tylka(Department of Workforce Services), Brecken Heywood (USBE), Thalea Longhurst (USBE), industry and community partners.

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Sen. Ann Millner called the meeting to order and welcomed members. She emphasized that this meeting would highlight accomplishments across initiatives and reinforce the shared vision for statewide college and career readiness efforts.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the August 28, 2025 meeting were reviewed. No corrections were offered. A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

3. First Credential Program – Legislative Framework and Master Plan

Vic Hockett and Taylor Adams provided an update on the statewide First Credential initiative created through HB 260. Updates included:

• Oversight committee membership and structure

• Development of the master plan for scaling first credentials statewide

• Subcommittees on credential approval, needs assessment, and industry alignment

• Expedited November deadline for presenting the plan to Education Interim

Board questions focused on data baselines, evaluation of student outcomes, and performance-based funding models.

4. Youth Apprenticeship and TRAC Expansion

Amy Andre presented progress on Utah's youth apprenticeship system, including:

• Growth of the Advanced Manufacturing TRACK program

• Expansion to Jordan School District and Snow College

• Launch of the Hospitality TRAC pilot for hotel management

• Utah's participation in the CEMETS Institute in Switzerland and Advanced CEMETS convening

• System-building priorities such as employer leadership, statewide competency alignment, and value proposition messaging

Board discussion emphasized employer engagement, scaling participation, and identifying core competencies across industries.

5. Cooperative Education Pilot – Mechanical Engineering Co-ops

Jimmy McDonough and Bryce Nelson shared updates on Utah's new cooperative education pilot:

• Origin of co-op interest following the Ireland trade mission

• SB 162 authorization and staffing support

• Review of national co-op models (Drexel, UNC Charlotte, Georgia Tech, RIT)

• Utah's focus on Mechanical Engineering as the initial pilot discipline

• Development timeline and upcoming Drexel-hosted co-op summit in November. The target is to launch the first cohort of co-op students next fall.

6. Talent Ready Utah AI and Machine Learning Programmatic Efforts

Jimmy McDonough presented a scan of AI-aligned programs funded through TRU initiatives to give board members further insight on previous TRU programmatic efforts:

• 23 AI or ML programs across eight institutions

• More than $12 million invested since 2021

• Integration of responsible AI questions into upcoming RFPs

Board members discussed alignment across deep tech and engineering initiatives.

7. Board Discussion – Employer Engagement and Demand Generation

Joshua Aikens highlighted the need for stronger demand-generation efforts after witnessing rapid employer interest at a recent roundtable and mentioned that more TRU outreach needs to happen statewide to promote TRU programs and get more employer partnerships.

Sen. Millner agreed and noted potential opportunities for healthcare and hospitality learning visits.

8. Next Steps and Future Meetings

Next meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2025. Proposed agenda items include grant motions, First Credential master plan updates, and apprenticeship and co-op progress reviews.

9. Adjournment

Sen. Millner adjourned the meeting and thanked members for their continued partnership in supporting statewide college and career readiness.