

# **SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

## **Minutes of the Meeting**

**Continental Tire of the Americas, LLC  
Sumter, South Carolina  
August 26, 2019**

Members Present: Ellen Weaver, Chair; April Allen; Rep. Raye Felder; Barbara Hairfield; Senator Greg Hembree; Senator Kevin Johnson; Senator John Matthews; Dr. Brian Newsome; Neil Robinson; Patti Tate; and Dr. John Stockwell.

EOC Staff Present: Dr. Kevin Andrews; Melanie Barton; Dr. Rainey Knight; Bunnie Ward; and Dana Yow.

Ms. Weaver welcomed members and guests to Continental Tire. She expressed her appreciation to April Allen for coordinating and hosting the EOC at Continental Tire.

The minutes of the June 10, 2019 meeting were approved as distributed.

Ms. Weaver introduced Erin Lockett and Ryan Mahoney from *ExcelinEd*. Ms. Lockett provided information on the importance of high school graduates and young adults earning postsecondary degrees or nationally recognized industry credentials aligned to state and regional workforce demands. She provided information on several research initiatives and policy recommendations that *ExcelinEd* had made to assist states in transforming career and technical education (CTE) programs aligned to the new Perkins law. The Credentials Matter project that *ExcelinEd* has launched is designed to start conversations about supply and demand. Currently, only 19% of credentials earned by K-12 students are in demand for U.S. employers. Specifically, Ms. Lockett noted that states should: (1) conduct cyclical audits of CTE programs to determine the success of students in entering careers and earning livable wages; (2) align CTE program offerings to regional and state jobs; and (3) amend the funding system to incentivize passage rather than course taking on national industry exams. Ms. Lockett noted the greatest challenge that states have in measuring long-term outcomes are limited data systems. Ms. Lockett noted that revised state Perkins plans are due in Spring 2020.

Rep. Felder asked about data systems in other states and their ability to provide the information needed to connect education to workforce needs. Dr. Stockwell noted that Spartanburg County is using the National Student Clearinghouse to get more reliable information on college-going rates for students in Spartanburg County. He noted that if the state were to use the National Student Clearinghouse that South Carolina would have better data that includes out-of-state college going rates. Mr. Robinson noted that the link between education and the workforce is critical to the economic future of the state. Ms. Weaver asked which states have better alignment

between education and the workforce. Ms. Lockett suggested that Tennessee has the most robust and strategic system to date with Colorado and Texas also moving forward in this area.

Ms. Weaver recognized Ms. Barton who provided an overview of the EOC's responsibilities during the upcoming fiscal year as required by statute and proviso. Ms. Weaver and the EOC recognized Ms. Barton for her service to the EOC.

Rep. Felder moved that the EOC go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion.

The veil having been lifted, the EOC came out of Executive Session. Ms. Weaver asked if an EOC member would entertain a motion to appoint Dr. Rainey Knight as Interim Executive Director of the EOC and to further direct the Interim Executive Director and the Chair to work with the Department of Administration to establish and report back to the Board on a search process for a permanent Executive Director. Mr. Robinson so moved, and Ms. Hairfield seconded the motion. The EOC unanimously approved the motion. Ms. Weaver recognized Dr. Knight and thanked her for her willingness to lead the Committee during the upcoming fiscal year.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.