

## **ARWDB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

*December 3, 2025, Meeting Notes*

### **Members Present**

Ms. Autumn Andrews  
Mr. James Jackson  
Ms. Kristy Smith  
Mr. Mike Alexander  
Mr. Trey Ragsdale  
Ms. Sara Ray

### **Members Absent**

Mr. Jamal Jessie  
Mr. Robert Duffield

*Quorum met*

ARWDB Board Co-Chairman, Trey Ragsdale, called the Committee meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

Workforce Director Brett Lacy welcomed attendees and started the meeting.

1. ARWDB membership:
  - Review meeting attendance: Members are currently in good standing.
  - Board Membership: The Board is back to full membership with 25 members.
  - Stephanie Rooks is set to retire at the end of this year.
  - A Board Retreat has been proposed for next year.
2. Board Meeting Action Items:
  - Approve the certification of career center locations for PY 2025
    - Discussion was held regarding the certification for the final access points in Cherokee and Henry.  
James Jackson made the motion, and Sara Ray seconded. Passed unanimously.
  - Approve the Updates to Six Next Gen Policies.
    - Discussion six polices the Next Gen Committee reviewed and updated, including changes to supportive services and incentive limits.  
Kristy Smith made the motion, and Autumn Andrews seconded. Passed unanimously.
  - Information Item: Brett Lacy provided the dates for next year's board meetings. There is a conflict with the March date.
3. Legislative Update: Provided by Brett Lacy
  - Brett provided an abbreviated update on federal and state workforce funding, the status of appropriations and reauthorization, and the impact of recent government

- shutdowns, emphasizing the need for ongoing engagement with state leadership and monitoring legislative developments
4. Budget:
    - No action items on the agenda
    - All funds have been received.
    - Quest Grant Funds – All funds, except for \$50k, were spent. Kudos to Phyllis and Haydn!
    - SAEF Grant: A \$500,000 grant over two years was awarded to support apprenticeship expansion.
  
  5. Program updates:
    - Marsharee O’Conner provided information on the Pathways to Digital Economy (PADE) initiative.
    - PADE is an ARC-led initiative designed to expand youth access to digital skills training and career pathways. PADE expands digital access and economic opportunities for youth
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The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.