

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

The meeting was called to order by Education Chairperson Duane Goossen at 3:30 p.m.. on January 19, 1994 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Tom Bishop, excused
Representative George Dean, excused
Representative Bob Mead, excused
Representative Greg Packer, excused

Committee staff present: Lynne Holt, Legislative Research Department
Bob Nugent, Revisor of Statutes
Ellie Luthye, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Malinda Haggerty, Human Resource Coordinator, M-PACT Management, Eudora
Kathy Solnok, TransUnion, Wichita
John Dralus, Director of Training, KCPL, Kansas City, Kansas

Others attending: See attached list

The House Economic Development Committee and the Education Committee met in joint session to hear presentations from businesses on A Business Perspective on School-to-Work Transition.

Chairman Goossen called on Malinda Haggerty, M-PACT, to speak first to the committees. She stated the qualifications their company looks for in a production employee is a stable work history, high school education or GED and some manufacturing experience. For the clerical professional they require a high school education, they do not accept a GED, and the same stable work history and previous experience as with a production employee. She explained they never hire employees directly from high school or VoTech schools without previous experience. She continued there are two programs within her company, one which hires high school students who do clerical work and work approximately 1 1/2 hours each day and currently two engineering students from KU who work twelve to twenty hours weekly, working on actual engineering projects. She stated the skill most lacking in employees is math skills. In response to questions from the committee she advised that they receive financial support from the Kansas Career Work Study program and that 50% of the gross wages are reimbursed.

Kathy Solnok, TransUnion, Wichita, spoke next to the committee. She stated that the jobs available for students to participate in are customer service, data entry, filing and mail handling, adding that some of these positions require problem solving. She continued TransUnion works closely with the public school coordinators to make sure the students are successful in their work experience because the product they are developing is their own education. She stated the students are selected for their program just as any future employee, by making application and having an interview. A large portion of the work is evening and week-end work which makes it well suited for student participation. She concluded by saying it was important for students to have the opportunity to receive experience in an actual work setting since it helps them develop a sense of teamwork that is necessary in the work place and it is a good learning process for all, students as well as employer.

John Dralus, Director of Training, Kansas City Power and Light, was the last presenter to appear before the committee. He stated he was involved in the training program which trained mechanics, machinists and overhead and underground line workers and also works with the Edison Electric Institute, a consortium of industrial and utility companies, to develop tests, stating all of the 1900 bargaining unit positions they have in the company are now covered by intensive testing programs. In 1981 they validated, during the reading testing procedure, that on applicants tested the minimum reading level was the 7th grade. He stated there was difficulty learning crafts, or upgrade their skills, because of lack of reading skills.

He continued KCPL is involved in four programs, three of them being KCPL initiatives. One is an

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, Room 423-S
Statehouse, at 3:30 p.m. on January 19, 1994.

educational partnership with Central Missouri State and Missouri Western where the schools come to the company and teach and that is one way of upgrading skills and this also helps the schools to understand what is important to business. He also stated they were in partnership with the BE2 program which also pulls business and education together. He concluded this partnership between business and education is important so students are able to translate what they are learning to how it relates to the work place and that this knowledge they are acquiring does have real meaning which can be translated into real skills, and into real jobs.

Following questions from the committee, Chairman Goossen adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 20, 1994.

GUEST LIST

Committee: Education/Economic Development (Joint meeting)

Date: 1-19-94

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