

City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Friday, December 13, 2019

Regular Meeting

Item Together1

Presentation from Together We Grow Steering Committee on Workforce Initiative.

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ABOUT

Together We Grow

GROWING WESTERN NEBRASKA

Together We Grow gives the potential workforce entering Western Nebraska Community College OR an employment opportunity to plan a foundation for the future. Applicants come out of the program with no student debt and a set of skills and work ethic in high demand allowing them to hit the ground running and start a career immediately.

PROGRAM DETAILS

- Applicants of all ages are welcome and encouraged to apply
- Scholarships will support tuition, fees, books and other required program expenses incurred while enrolled in WNCC courses
- Funding of internships, apprenticeships and signing bonuses will be paid directly to the Industry Partner

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- U.S. citizen or U.S. national (may be eligible if you have a green card and are eligible for federal financial aid)
- In-state and out-of-state applicants are eligible to apply
- Demonstrate aptitude and attitude through one or more of the following:
 - The National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) or other industry-recognized certifications in the career area
 - Technical, dual or concurrent credit courses taken in the career interest area
 - Career & Technical Education coursework completed in the career interest area.
 - Work-based learning experiences, internships or work experience in the career interest area
 - Enrolling as a first-time student in a high need program. Previous college or technical institute attendance is acceptable

- Willingness to learn and take direction in an internship or apprenticeship environment

APPLICANT COMMITMENT

In accepting scholarship awards, internships, apprenticeships or signing bonuses recipients will agree to:

- Enroll full-time at WNCC in a technical program determined to be high-need workforce area in western Nebraska
- Successful application to work as an intern or apprentice in a qualified business located in western Nebraska
- In the case of a signing bonus, successful application to work full-time at a qualified business offering such bonus
- Following graduation, internship or apprenticeship completion, work full-time in the field of study/experience for a minimum of five years

MISSION: Together We Grow will provide workforce opportunities to current and future residents of western Nebraska. By providing internships, apprenticeships and signing bonuses to workers in the area and in return a five year work commitment requirements to western Nebraska. (Train and retain).

Phase I – establish educational partnerships (WNCC, career academies). Educational institutions will identify programs and fields of study needed for workforce development filling community needs.

Phase II – Funding: complete the City of Scottsbluff LB840 application requesting \$1 million in funding for the workforce development program; apply for funds through OTCF, Nebr. Community Foundation, Peter Kiewit, Buckley Trust, Quivey Bay Foundation, USDA, Dept. of Education Vocational Education Program, Ford Motor Company, Walmart, Burlington Northern, Union Pacific, National Housing Development Fund, DED Customized Job Training Program, and many others.

Phase III – identify a group of advisory board members made up of regional community leaders/partners by re-establishing the WNED (Western Nebraska Economic Development) group.

Phase IV – partner with the NDOL (Nebr. Department of Labor) to identify the skills gap and needed workforce in the community.

Phase V – devise an implementation plan to educate businesses who are seeking skilled labor, informing them of the program.

Phase VI – recruit a wide variety of businesses to relocate or expand in western Nebraska by showcasing the Together We Grow concept, promoting a workforce-ready community.