



Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!
Career and Educational Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2022

➤ **Call to Order**

Mr. Chris Standerford called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm ET.

The following members were present:

Chris Standerford

Mike Smith

Emily Gochis

Trent Bellingar

Brian Sarvello

Cindy Carter

Kevin St. Onge

Samantha Cameron

Ashley Nevins

Marybeth Koski

Elise Bur

Geralyn Narkiewicz

Shawn Kolbus

Cassy Tefft De Munoz

Emily Gochis

The following resources/guests were present:

Debb Brunell, Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!

Hanna Duckwall, Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!

Holly Peoples, Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!

Betsy Erkkila, Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!



Brian Sarvello, Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!

Megan Boddy Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!

Claire Bunker, MiSTEM

Eric Ziegler, CTE Director Marquette/Alger

Wayne Rourke, LEO

Leo Murembya, Ph.D., LEO

Jannah Tumey, MTU

Stephen Gillotte, LEO

Erich Ziegler, Marquette-Alger RESA

➤ **Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

➤ **New Business**

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Ms. Nevins, seconded by Mr. Ackerman-Behr, all in favor, motion passes.

A motion to approve the meeting minutes of August 9, 2022, was made by Mr. Bellingar, and seconded by Ms. Carter, all in favor, motion passes.

➤ **Data Presentation**

Mr. Leo Murembya, Ph.D., presented data to the CEAC group. It was noted there has been much change since the pandemic. Many initiatives are coming back since 2020. Leo presented labor market and population trends, educational attainment, labor force, employment, and unemployment data. It was noted that the upper peninsula (UP) has been steadily declining since 2000 and has never recovered. The state started trending up in 2012. The unemployment rate spiked in 2009 and trended down until the 2019 pandemic spike in Unemployment. Then unemployment dropped in UP and the state dropped after the pandemic. The current UP rate is among the lowest recorded in the past two decades. Mr. Murembya also presented occupations, hot jobs, and industry data. The PowerPoint presentation was made available to the CEAC and for more information they were also directed to the [Michigan.gov/lmi](https://www.michigan.gov/lmi) website.

➤ **Upper Peninsula Michigan Works! Activity**

Upper Peninsula Michigan Works! (UPMW) staff presented a Talent Pipeline Management (TPM) activity. They explained the OneUP collaborative and discussed value stream mapping. Meeting participants identified where in the pathway they fit. It was emphasized that businesses must be involved with educators. To build a pipeline we must understand what is involved in each step. The UP can improve. Educators must be aware of job opportunities so they can help their students succeed.



➤ **Mind Trekkers**

The big initiative lately of the CEAC has been to plan Mind Trekkers events for middle school students in the UP. The goal of Mind Trekkers is to spark curiosity in students. Early outreach is the key to helping students find jobs and stay in the area. A CEAC/UPMW/MTU partnership is responsible for this event. The first event will occur on 12/13/2022 at Michigan Technological University (western UP event). The goal is to see about 800 students. The next event planned will take place on 1/27/2022 at Bay College.

Next steps: MTU is developing sponsorship guides and will handle promotion materials, exhibitions, school registration, and other logistics. CEAC could help spread the word by contacting businesses and get involved with volunteering at the event. Also, the CEAC can help name the events.

➤ **Wrap-up / Next Meeting**

December 13, 2022 is the next proposed CEAC meeting date. This date conflicts with the Houghton Mind Trekkers event. The CEAC has met the minimum meeting requirement for 2022, so instead of having a formal meeting on December 13 it was decided the Mind Trekkers event will be the focus and the CEAC members were encouraged to attend.

Mr. Chris Standerford is stepping down as the CEAC chair. The group can send nominations for a new chair to be presented to the Workforce Development Board for approval.

➤ **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:02 pm ET.