

Iowa Apprenticeship Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 24, 2025

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Iowa Workforce Development

1. Call to Order

➤ Tim Felderman, Chair

- Chair Tim Felderman called to order the meeting of the Iowa Apprenticeship Council (the Council) on September 24, 2025, at approximately 10:02 a.m.

Roll Call: Chair Tim Felderman called roll.

1. Tim Felderman	Present
2. Kolton Hewlett	Present
3. Jeremy Lindquist	Present
4. Ginny Shindelar	Present (Virtual)
5. Trevor Stevens	Present
6. Dane Sulentic (Non-Voting)	Present

Kolby Knupp confirmed that quorum has been met.

2. Approval of September Meeting Agenda

➤ Tim Felderman, Chair

- Chair Felderman called the next order of business which was the approval of the meeting Agenda for September 24, 2025. The agenda was previously emailed to the Members of the Board.
 - Kolton Hewlett motioned to approve the September meeting agenda
 - Jeremy Lindquist seconded the motion
- Members of the Board in attendance voted on the motion by voice vote, which carried unanimously.

3. Approve previous meeting minutes

➤ Tim Felderman, Chair

- Chair Felderman called the next order of business, which was the approval of the meeting minutes from the June 24, 2025, council meeting. The minutes were previously emailed to the Members of the Board.
 - Kolton Hewlett motioned to approve the March meeting minutes
 - Trevor Stevens seconded the motion
- Members of the Board in attendance voted on the motion by voice vote, which carried unanimously.

4. Welcome and member comments/updates

➤ Tim Felderman, Chair

- Jeremy Lindquist mentioned an upcoming Annual Trades Expo in mid-October
- Trevor Stevens highlighted an increase in interest in WBL options with high schools
- Kolton Hewlett mentioned he will be presenting at the Iowa Hospital Association in mid-October to highlight the RA Model for healthcare entities
- Ginny Schindelar mentioned that they've just recently kicked off their Fall classes and will be having an annual "craft championship" event in December 2025
- Chair Felderman highlighted that recent release of Iowa School "scorecards"

5. Certified Instructor Overview

- Dave Wempen, Iowa Board of Educational Examiners, Iowa Department of Education
 - Mr. Wempen gave an overview of the multiple ways in which an individual may seek authorization to be able to support WBL efforts
 - Highlighted the 9-12 WEBL Program Supervisor Authorization which may be viable for many employers or professionals who are supporting WBL and
 - Clarification that this certification would not allow an individual to teach in-person classes but to supervisor (and/or coordinate) some experiences for students/apprentices
 - The approval and authorization processes have improved and flexibilities over the past 18 months; making this a very feasible authorization/credential for non-licensed teachers.
 - Feedback from the meeting addressed some of the costs associated with these certifications

6. SAA/IOA Update

- Dane Sulentic, State Apprenticeship Director, Iowa Office of Apprenticeship
 - Dane shared recent cumulative data points of the IOA, highlighting active RA programs, employers and apprentices.
 - Dane highlighted the RA Sponsor Map on the IOA website which had recently been revised in partnership with the Business Engagement Consultants; will continue this campaign quarterly as well as additional training resources being built by the IOA team

7. Registered Apprenticeship (RA) Sponsor Landscape Analysis

- Kolby Knupp, IOA Program Manager, Iowa Office of Apprenticeship
 - Kolby provided an overview of the RA Sponsor Landscape analysis, which was conducted in late Spring 2025 through a 3rd party company (Baton Global)
 - Reviewed data highlights (from RAPIDS), strengths of the RA program, challenges of the RA Program as well as opportunities for innovation
 - Reviewed themes and trends as well as actions that IOA has implemented in response and in alignment with these emerging themes
 - Discussion to follow regarding the Landscape Analysis

8. Council Discussions

- Funding was a common theme identified from many RA Sponsors throughout the landscape analysis
 - Director Townsend (IWD) highlighted that IWD will be utilizing this information to ensure that feedback and voice of RA Sponsors can be heard and maximized
 - Further conversation addressed how to help clarify how grant or incentive funds can be utilized, providing the most flexibility where possible
 - Kolton Hewlett highlighted the limitations of the IHC (SLFRF/ARPA funding) and that it is very restrictive for overall costs for the implementation of the program
 - State Apprenticeship Director Dane Sulentic highlighted IOA would like to further investigate the highlighted “financial needs” from RA sponsor, helping to identify why types of costs are burdensome in an RA
 - Chair Felderman followed with trying to decipher the risk (and anticipated additional costs) for Sponsors when hiring an apprentice vs. hiring an individual who is already trained, leaving a potential additional question to be clarified or vetted in the future
- Trevor Stevens highlighted the ages of apprentices participating; highlighting that while a major focus is students right out of high school, we can’t miss the opportunity to capitalize on those 24+ age range who may be looking to use RA as a pathway for training or reskilling
- Trevor Stevens also highlighted the comments in the landscape analysis from RA Sponsors about risk of training apprentices who may leave or find new roles
 - Trevor Stevens highlighted RA Sponsor approach, focusing on training and development of a “Craft” vs. filling a job.

- Kolton Hewlett also contributed to the discussion, highlighting that he is addressing the investment and commitment at Cass Health to building and training healthcare providers as a “general win” for all healthcare providers (as well as win for the collective State).
- There was a request that council members share or highlight any upcoming conferences or events where IOA (and/or the council) could create new partnerships or consider bringing on an association or local organization as an Intermediary sponsor opportunity.
 - IOA will reach out to council members post meeting for this feedback/information
- Jeremey Lindquist also addressed the continued theme of creating more education and awareness; tying it back to Dave Wempen’s presentation and addressing how teachers and counselors are trained on understanding RA as a viable pathway.
- Feedback from Chair Felderman was to revisit this report in 6 months to see impacts or updates that have stemmed from this report.
 - IOA will make a note to have this on a future Iowa Apprenticeship Council agenda.

9. Public Comments

- No public comment.

10. Adjournment

- Trevor Stevens motioned to adjourn the meeting
- Jeremey Lindquist seconded the motion.
- Members of the Board in attendance voted on the motion by voice vote, which carried unanimously.
- Chair Felderman adjourned the meeting of the Council at 11:39 pm.

Notes Compiled by:

Kolby Knupp
 Program Manager, Iowa Office of Apprenticeship
 Iowa Workforce Development