

Iowa Apprenticeship Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

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 January 13, 2026, at approximately 10:12 a.m.

Roll Call: Chair Tim Felderman called roll.

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

Kolby Knupp confirmed that quorum had been met.

2. Approval of January Meeting Agenda

➤ Tim Felderman, Chair

- Chair Felderman called the next order of business, which was the approval of the meeting Agenda for January 13, 2026. The agenda was previously emailed to the Members of the Board.
 - Jeremy Lindquist motioned to approve the January meeting agenda
 - Trevor Stevens seconded the motion
- Members of the Board in attendance voted on the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Approve previous (September) meeting minutes

➤ Tim Felderman, Chair

- Chair Felderman called the next order of business, which was the approval of the meeting minutes from the September 23, 2025 council meeting. The minutes were previously emailed to the Members of the Board.
 - Jeremy Lindquist motioned to approve the September meeting agenda
 - 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. SAA/IOA Update

- Dane Sulentic, State Apprenticeship Director, Iowa Office of Apprenticeship
 - Dane shared 2025 calendar year data on the Iowa Office of Apprenticeship, highlighting engagement with the office, averages of programs established and averages of apprentices participating.
 - Dane reviewed the state and federal grants that the Iowa Office of Apprenticeship team facilitates and manages; many of the federal grant focused on healthcare and teacher pathways are wrapping up in 2026.
 - Dane revisited and highlighted many of the executive orders shared out over the past year, in how they are influencing registered apprenticeship initiatives on a national conversation. Dane additionally shared out a summary of the huge investment of federal funding to target and expand RA pathways in specific industries and to fulfill the federal government's *goal of one million active apprentices*

6. State Apprenticeship Expansion Fund (SAEF)

- Kolby Knupp, IOA Program Manager, Iowa Office of Apprenticeship
 - Kolby provided an of the SAEF grant that the Iowa Office of Apprenticeship
 - Kolby reviewed the three main projects for the grant application:
 - Exposure and Awareness of High-School Youth on apprenticeship opportunities
 - Development of Infrastructure and Access to Registered Apprenticeship pathways through intermediary model
 - Addressing apprentice attrition and focusing on apprentice completion
 - Discussion of the council followed to give feedback and insight into the projects proposed as part of the overall \$5M competitive grant

7. Council Discussions on SAEF Projects and National Trends

- State Apprenticeship Director (Dane Sulentic) gave an overview of all the executive orders, funding announcements and guidance being released from Department of Labor and current federal administration in support of Registered Apprenticeship
- Discussion amongst the Council
 - i. Trevor highlighted that they are dedicating balancing meeting the demands of tomorrow while meeting needs of today; this creates challenges that not every trainee/apprentice has employment placement, but these skills will be needed
 - ii. As highlighted in the presentation, if 40% of high school graduates in the State of Iowa do not attend college, how many of those are going into RA pathways.
 - 1. Feedback from the council highlighted what information other state agencies may be compiling to track and monitor
 - 2. Jeremy proposed the concept of helping to identify how many of those high-school graduates do enter an RA Pathway to break down that 40% further.
 - iii. Jeremy gave additional feedback on how the high-school curriculum likely isn't tailored enough for individuals seeking an RA model and/or CTE pathway; the pipeline for education and training is the same for all students, even if they aren't planning on a traditional college pathway
 - 1. Considering how the educational outreach of project #1 for exposure to industry/occupation and potential for RA training can help impact this
 - iv. Jeremy also highlighted the challenges where they need more students in high school to be trained but they don't have enough qualified individuals to teach these courses.
 - 1. And based on salary of educators, many folks in trades can make more funding working in their true industry rather than being an educator.
 - 2. This was also echoed as a challenge within the healthcare industry; folks make more money serving the industry rather than an industry or occupational educator.

- v. Kolton also acknowledged the challenges plaguing healthcare educational pathways that require a master-level teacher in that occupational field to each when there are other, qualified individuals who could train and educate outside of the field. This is further exacerbated by the need for higher-education coursework as part of licensure and curriculum.
- Kolton also highlighted that while he is continuously creating pathways for engagement with school districts, the relationship can be one-side; need more buy-in from other partners to maintain these relationships
- Consideration for educators to participate in an externship could be critical to understanding employers; how might we consider incentivizing employers?

8. National Apprenticeship Week

- a. Highlighted activities that the Iowa Office of Apprenticeship is considering for National Apprenticeship Week, which will take place the last week in April 2025.
- b. General discussion about what organizations might want to see from the Iowa Office of Apprenticeship for National Apprenticeship Week
- c. Consensus among council members is to host and engage during this week
- d. Consideration of a Career Fair for educators as a way for them to engage?

9. Public Comments

- No public comment.

10. Adjournment

- Jeremy Lindquist motioned to adjourn the meeting
- Trevor Stevens seconded the motion.
- Members of the Board in attendance voted on the motion, which carried unanimously.
- Chair Felderman adjourned the meeting of the Council at 12:03 pm.

Notes Compiled by:

Kolby Knupp
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Iowa Workforce Development