

**JOB TRAINING INCENTIVE
PROGRAM MONTHLY BOARD
MEETING**

Virtual Meeting

MEETING SUMMARY OF April 8, 2022

ATTENDEES:

Board Members

Mark Roper, EDD Division Director - Board Chair
Marc Duske, NM Public Education Department
Michelle Doran, Department of Workforce Solutions
Kathleen Sena, NMHED
Monica Sandoval-Johnson, STEM Boomerang

Board Members Absent

JTIP Staff Present

Patrick Gannon, Program Manager
Avelina Borrego, Marketing Coordinator
Jennifer Prada, Program Administrator

Guests

Shurette Neuman, Sceye, Inc.
Yesim Roth, SRE Wellness, Inc.
Luc Cisna, The Verdes Foundation
Isaac Sheets, General Airframe Support, Inc.
Melissa Juarez, RCEDD
Jonathon Bartlett, Indica Labs, Inc.
Kayvan Khalatbari, Ramel Family Farms, LLC
Angela Smith Kirkman, Paseo Pottery
Vicky Ho, Kairos Power, LLC
Michelle Fraumeni, Kairos Power, LLC
Allison Peacock, Parting Stone, LLC
Mandy Hale, LQ Digital, LLC
Chris Erickson-King, LQ Digital, LLC
Parin Kumar, Orenda Farms & Vana, LLC
Riddhi Bhakta, Orenda Farms & Vana, LLC
Jeff Wallis, Alstate Steel, Inc.
Robert Maynes, Alstate Steel, Inc.
Lorraine Ruggles, NMEDD Regional Representative
Max Gruner, NMEDD Regional Representative

I. Introductions

The meeting convened at 9:02 am. The introduction of board and staff followed.

II. Approval of the Agenda (amended)

Motion to approve the agenda as amended due to removing the Film Office presentation from this meeting to next month was made by Ms. Sena and seconded by Ms. Sandoval-Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Consideration of Amendments

a) Sceye, Inc. – Moriarty

The company requested a total of \$37,964.16 for 1 trainee at an average wage of \$45.63 per hour. The company has been approved for JTIP on three previous occasions.

The company expressed appreciation for JTIP and stated that they couldn't get this position into the last round and that is why the amendment was requested.

A motion to approve this request was made by Mr. Duske and seconded by Ms. Doran. Motion passed unanimously.

b) SRE Wellness, Inc. – Albuquerque

The company requested a total of \$22,308.00 for 1 trainee at an average wage of \$39.00 per hour. The company has been approved for JTIP on one previous occasion.

The company stated that are now up to 12 employees; are in person now, they have a lab and an office, and they project 3 times the amount of growth, so more employees will be needed.

A motion to approve this request was made by Ms. Sena and seconded by Ms. Doran. Motion passed unanimously.

c) The Verdes Foundation – Albuquerque

The company requested a total of \$17,640.00 for 4 trainees at an average wage of \$16.88 per hour. The company has been approved for JTIP on eight previous occasions.

The company expressed appreciation for JTIP; are filling positions; now that recreational and adult use is legalized, more positions are necessary for growth.

A motion to approve this request was made by Ms. Sandoval-Johnson and seconded by Ms. Sena. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Consideration of Proposals

a) General Airframe Support – Roswell

The company requested a total of \$205,090.00 for 19 trainees at an average wage of \$19.31 per hour. The company has been approved for JTIP on two previous occasions.

The company stated that they had a delay in Lubbock; will have 145 certifications by end of summer or sooner; the General Manager of Service just left; and went on to discuss the ins and outs of the company and their future plans.

A motion to approve this request was made by Ms. Doran and seconded by Mr. Duske. Motion passed unanimously.

b) Indica Labs, Inc. – Albuquerque

The company requested a total of \$422,054.64 for 17 trainees at an average wage of \$40.02 per hour and 6 interns at an average wage of \$25.62 per hour. The company has been approved for JTIP on seven previous occasions.

The company stated that they have already implemented a sick leave policy that was rolled out by the Governor, to be starting 7/1/2022; been challenging filling some jobs due to attrition; will be actively recruiting now with the help; some engineers are leaving however, due to higher wages elsewhere; the company has bumped up wages by 10% to stay competitive; is at capacity location wise, however, there is more space near where they are now; may offer interns full benefits as well.

A motion to approve this request was made by Mr. Duske and seconded by Ms. Doran. Motion passed unanimously.

c) Ramel Family Farms, LLC – Raton

The company requested a total of \$28,763.84 for 2 trainees at an average wage of \$20.37 per hour. This is the first time the company has applied for JTIP.

The company expressed appreciation; stated that they are pursuing grant funding for a warehouse, will be operational on a small scale and will have cricket production by summer and gave an overview of their product.

A motion to approve this request was made by Mr. Duske and seconded by Ms. Sena. Motion passed unanimously.

d) Paseo Pottery – Santa Fe

The company requested a total of \$21,640.00 for 2 trainees at an average wage of \$21.50 per hour. This is the first time the company has applied for JTIP.

The company expressed appreciation for JTIP and Ms. Smith-Kirkman stated that she was a volunteer with the company for 18 years before taking over and have moved into the Siler district area.

A motion to approve this request was made by Ms. Doran and seconded by Ms. Sena. Motion passed unanimously.

e) Kairos Power, LLC – Albuquerque

The company requested a total of \$766,280.00 for 32 trainees at an average wage of \$43.59 per hour and 10 interns at an average wage of \$26.50 per hour. The company has been approved for JTIP on five previous occasions.

The company expressed appreciation for JTIP and stated that they recently celebrated their 2-year facility opening; are far ahead of schedule for hiring; has received a couple of accolades, one of which was Forbes best star employee; are trying to stay up to date on CDC recommendations; are back into full operating status since COVID and are accommodating employees needs for working hybrid, remote, etc.; gave an overview of future plans.

A motion to approve this request was made by Ms. Sena and seconded by Ms. Doran. Motion passed unanimously.

f) Parting Stone, LLC – Santa Fe

The company requested a total of \$134,230.00 for 15 trainees at an average wage of \$21.67 per hour. The company has been approved for JTIP on three previous

occasions.

The company expressed appreciation for JTIP and stated that they are now able to provide more benefits to employees now that they have received some grant funds; have grown 135% in the past year; moved from a 3,000 sq. ft. warehouse to an 8,000 sq. ft. warehouse; gave an overview of why they've had a high turnover.

A motion to approve this request was made by Ms. Doran and seconded by Ms. Sena. Motion passed unanimously.

g) LQ Digital Inc. – Albuquerque

The company requested a total of \$127,970.00 for 47 trainees at an average wage of \$15.32 per hour. The company has been approved for JTIP on two previous occasions.

The company expressed appreciation for JTIP and stated that they opened October 1st on 3rd Street; are at 85 houses and will be closing in at 100 by the end of April.

A motion to approve this request was made by Ms. Sandoval-Johnson and seconded by Ms. Doran. Motion passed unanimously.

h) Orenda Farms, LLC – Clovis

The company requested a total of \$355,594.00 for 19 trainees at an average wage of \$26.59 per hour. This is the first time the company has applied for JTIP.

The company expressed appreciation for JTIP and gave an overview of the company; Chairman Roper stated he had an issue with the cultivation part of the company regarding what policy states about it having to be value added; more discussion regarding this occurred.

A motion to approve this request was made by Ms. Sena and seconded by Ms. Sandoval-Johnson. Mr. Duske and Chairman Roper were in opposition to approving this request. Motion passed by the rest of the board.

i) Vana, LLC – Clovis

The company requested a total of \$280,924.00 for 15 trainees at an average wage of \$25.13 per hour. This is the first time the company has applied for JTIP.

The company expressed appreciation for JTIP and gave an overview of the company.

A motion to approve this request was made by Ms. Sena and seconded by Ms. Sandoval-Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

j) Alstate Steel, LLC – Albuquerque

The company requested a total of \$119,410.00 for 14 trainees at an average wage of \$21.98 per hour. The company has been approved for JTIP on one previous occasion.

The company expressed appreciation for JTIP and stated that they relocated to NM in 1997 from northern California; has been growing dramatically due to CNC expansion out into Colorado then Arizona; are performing now in 14 states; have a back log to September 2023; are expanding in NM with a new product line, building new machinery and have a lot of projects in the works.

A motion to approve this request was made by Ms. Doran and seconded by Mr. Duske. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Approval of Minutes

- a. JTIP Board meeting, March 11, 2022 - a motion was made by Mr. Duske and seconded by Ms. Doran. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Fiscal Update

Mr. Gannon shared the fiscal report and the projects in the pipeline.

VII. Other (Discussion Items)

- a. JTIP Public Policy Hearing and Board Retreat
 - I. Public Hearing – May 13, 2022; 9:00 am-12:00 pm, Virtual
 - II. Board Retreat – May 13, 2022; 1:00 pm-3:00 pm, Virtual – will have discussions from the public hearing
- b. Next Board Meeting – May 20, 2022; 9:00 am -12:00 pm; Virtual

VIII. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Chairman Roper. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 11:59 am.