

# Youth Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday

June 27, 2024

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

MOUNTWEST COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

**Meeting Facilitator:** Melissa Bias, Executive Director of Region 2 Workforce Investment Board

**Present:** Chairman Charles Shaw, Melissa Bias (Executive Director Region 2 WIB), Region 2 WIB Staff: Heather Merritt, Malissa Dishman, and Adam Warden. Region 2 WIB Youth: Anna Dishman, Bethany Lovejoy, Addison Staats, Aleya Goodman, Brianna Merritt and her Mom: Mildred Ray. Bradlee Jordan (One-Stop/HRDF), Katlan Maynard and Olivia Bird (MCTC), Wesley Varney (MedCare), Mark Smith (WV Adult ED), Kaitlyn Blankenship (DoHS), Derek Hagler (Branches), Janet Gaither and Heather Bennett (Prestera), Tammey Quinonez (HVVHA), and Kenzie Buchanan (Studio 301).

**Call to Order: Pastor Charles Shaw – Youth Chair**

**Prayer: Pastor Charles Shaw**

**Minutes:** A motion to approve the May 2024 Minutes was made by Bradlee Jordan and seconded by Wesley Varney.

**Executive Director Report:**

- **Melissa Bias** welcomed everyone. She gave updates on our youth program. She explained our youth are expected to earn \$3,500 per quarter, but the youth in our program with training are earning \$6,590 per quarter on average. “We are proud of our youth in our program and of the youth who we are celebrating today in our meeting.”

**Youth Supervisor Report/Career Planner’s Presentations:**

- **Heather Merritt- Youth Supervisor:** Heather spotlighted some of our youth in our program.
  - \* **SASPRO:** Completed Training: *Kayla Newman, Haley Preston, and Morgan Rose.*
  - \* **Jordan Adams-** earned his CDL’s while waiting to get his High School Diploma.
  - \* **Chase Woolum-** Attended/Certified at Maritime Academy @MCTC for Deckhand Training.

\***Addison Staats**- earned High School Diploma from Spring Valley High School & has a full-ride scholarship to Marshall University to take Education.

\***Aleya Goodman**- earned High School Diploma from Pike View High School. She is going to attend Marshall University and wants to teach English as a 2<sup>nd</sup> language; she wants to go to Japan to teach it there.

\***Anna Dishman**- She took the 8-week program @MCTC for PCTC, EKG, and Phlebotomy. She took all 3 state board exams and passed. She is thankful for the Teachers at MCTC who were “very nice & very helpful”. She is “very thankful for those who have made this all possible”.

- **Adam Warden- Youth Career Planner:** introduced our 2 youth we celebrated today by having a Graduation Ceremony. Bethany and Brianna walked down the aisle in a graduation cap & gown to receive their High School Diploma, given by Pastor Charles Shaw, Youth Chair Region 2 WIB, and Melissa Bias, Executive Director Region 2 WIB.

\***Bethany Lovejoy**- She is from Lincoln County. She graduated from Penn Foster High School and earned her High School Diploma. She wants to take Vet Training.

\***Brianna Merritt**- She is from Mingo County. She graduated from Penn Foster High School and earned her High School Diploma. She would like to become a Vet Tech.

- **Heather Merritt** introduced our Guest Speakers:
  - **Kenzie Buchanan (Dance Studio 301):** Kenzie told us of her journey through dance and becoming owner of Dance 301. She reminded us of some things she has learned through experience: 1) Do not overcomplicate things. 2) Find Balance & allow flexibility. 3) Hold yourself accountable. She also left us with a great thought, “Your willingness to move fluidly through your own personal journey is the key to success.” (studio301dance.com)
  - **Katlan Maynard (MCTC):** Katlan informed us about the different programs Mountwest Community and Technical College offers. Dr. Joshua Baker is the President of MCTC. She told us the faculty to student ratio is 14:1. MCTC offers over 50 different degrees and certificate programs via in person and online. MCTC students have access to: the Food Pantry, Free Parking, Free Wi-fi, Bus Service, Free in-person & online tutoring at the Academic Skills Center, 2+2 Programs, Disability Services, the Writing Center, and much more. MCTC is located in Huntington, WV. ([www.mctc.edu](http://www.mctc.edu))

**(Melissa Bias thanked everyone for coming.)**

**Adjourned at 1:32 pm**

**\*MCTC offered a tour of the college following the meeting.**

**Respectfully Submitted by: Malissa Dishman**

