Thursday, July 18, 2013 – University of Colorado-Colorado Springs

Chair Dave Csintyan called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. and welcomed the Council to Colorado Springs. The Council members took turns introducing themselves and giving updates.

Approval of the Agenda and Old Business
Dave asked for approval of the agenda and the June meeting minutes. Ryan Keiffer made the motion and Grover Wallace seconded. There was no further discussion, and the agenda and minutes were both approved.

Consent Agenda
Dave then asked for approval of the consent agenda, which included a by-laws change that extends the length of the Chair’s term to 2 years, a proposal for the October meeting to be held in Fort Collins, and a request from Treasurer Kyle Sickman to give the Executive Committee the authority to approve the budget, since there CWDC does not have discretionary funds this year (if reinstated, will return to full Council approval of budget). Karla Grazier made the motion to approve the consent agenda and Kathy Worthington seconded. There was no further discussion, and the consent agenda was approved.

Education in Colorado: A Conversation on “Crib to Career”
Andrew Freedman with Colorado Commits to Kids talked to the Council about the upcoming ballot initiative on education reform, what it means to Coloradans and the future economic prosperity of the state, and why it is needed to maintain Colorado’s competitive advantage. Andrew’s presentation was followed by Q&A and discussion about the Council’s role in supporting and advocating for the initiative. Tamara White, Director of Admission and Access Policy for the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE), talked about the current college admissions and remedial policies and the recommended changes (see “Higher Ed Recommended Policy Changes” slides). She asked for the Council’s feedback, and there was open discussion with her and Inta Morris, Interim Deputy Executive Director of CDHE, around preparing P-12 students to enter higher education and/or the workforce.

Welcome from UCCS and Tours
Dave introduced UCCS Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Mary Coussons-Read, to welcome the Council to the campus and share examples of how UCCS is working with industry, P-12 education, economic development, and workforce development partners to prepare students for the jobs of today and tomorrow. The Council then toured the Center for Advanced Technologies and Optical Materials and saw the university’s CISCO Teaching Technologies used for distance learning.

Everyone traveled to the hotel for dinner and a presentation from Chair-Elect Toya Speckman and Joe Barela, Council member and Treasurer for the Rocky Mountain Workforce Development Association. Toya and Joe spoke about
Regional and State Alignment and the role of RMWDA in advocacy and professional development for the workforce system. Stephanie then gave an update on business services standardization.

Friday, July 19, 2013 – Pikes Peak Workforce Center

Dave opened the second day with a recap of the previous day’s conversations and tours.

Strategic Plan Progress to Date, Stories from CWDC Members, and Council Rebranding Initiative
(See “Strategic Plan Progress” slides). Mary Probst gave an update on the progress CWDC has made on the strategic plan over the last year. She also discussed the results of the Member Self-Evaluation, and how ratings have changed from this time last year. Mary asked several Council members to share stories about how they have fulfilled their role as a Council member and what the outcomes were.

(See “Council Rebranding Initiative” slides). Director Stephanie Steffens talked about the Council rebranding initiative and why a survey of partners and stakeholders was necessary. CWDC asked the Office of Government, Policy & Public Relations (GPPR) for the Colorado Department of Labor & Employment (CDLE), to conduct the survey and utilize the feedback to evaluate/update the branding for the CWDC. Cher Haavind, Director of GPPR, and Oscar Morillon, Graphic Designer, presented the themes of the survey feedback and revealed the new logo. Stephanie noted that there would be further work on the brand, and interested Council members should sign up for the Strategic Planning and Branding task group.

Recognition of Council Member John Vukich
Dave recognized John Vukich for his service on the CWDC as he finishes out his term. John has served on the Council for 3 years, but with retirement from Pueblo Community College has decided to focus on other activities. He has been a champion for Advanced Manufacturing in Colorado, and will remain engaged in regional and statewide initiatives in this area. We will miss John, but wish him the best!

Updating the Strategic Plan
(See “Updating the Strategic Plan” slides.) Stephanie introduced Brian Pool, a consultant with North Highland, the firm that is working with the Governor’s Office and state agencies on process improvement projects. CWDC has been working with Brian on mapping out the strategic plan and structure of the Council. Stephanie presented a proposed structure of the Council, and Dave called for a vote. Ryan Keiffer made the motion and Mark Spiecker seconded. There was no further discussion, and the new structure of the Council was approved. Stephanie also talked about the proposed new mission statement, shared goals with other partners, and the updated Council objectives. She asked again for Council members who are interested in working to refine the strategic plan to sign up for the Strategic Planning and Branding task group. Stephanie then introduced Angela Baber with the Colorado Legacy Foundation to talk about the Governor’s STEM Action Plan and how it supports and ties into the new structure of the Council.

Discussion with Cabinet Members
Brian Pool facilitated a discussion with Ken Lund, Executive Director of the Office of Economic Development & International Trade (OEDIT), and Ellen Golombek, Executive Director of CDLE. Ken talked about the accomplishments OEDIT has celebrated recently, especially in attracting new business to Colorado. He stated that Colorado has a competitive advantage in talent and business climate, and that while we offer modest incentives, we have great execution when a company is considering states to locate to. Ellen noted process improvement, virtual job fairs, and the Virtual Workforce Center at the Libraries as just some of CDLE’s recent accomplishments. Brian opened the floor for Q&A with the Council members.

Policy & Legislative Committee Update
(See “WIA Reauthorization July 2013 Update” document.) Don McClure, Co-Chair of the Policy & Legislative Committee, gave an update on WIA Reauthorization. He asked Kyle Sickman to show a comparison of the CWDC
budget when there were discretionary funds and what it looks like now – a significant difference. Don talked about the SKILLS Act that passed the U.S. House of Representatives and the draft bill that is being discussed in the U.S. Senate, and encouraged Council members to call their representatives and send customized letters to staff encouraging WIA Reauthorization with full reinstatement of the Governor’s 15% discretionary funds. CWDC will send out talking points and examples for Council members and partners to utilize. Don also mentioned that Tom Perez was confirmed as U.S. Secretary of Labor on July 18th.

**AspenPointe Presentation and Tour of Pikes Peak Workforce Center**  
(See “AspenPointe” slides.) Jonathan Liebert, VP of AspenPointe Enterprises, talked to the Council about social enterprise and what AspenPointe does to help prepare disadvantaged individuals for in-demand occupations. He then took the Council members to the AspenPointe Café to show them the training in action. Charlie Whelan and staff followed with an engaging tour of the Pikes Peak Workforce Center.

**Recap of Past 2 Years and Expectations for What’s To Come**  
Dave gave a recap of his past two years as Chair. He talked about the foundation that CWDC has laid through its many accomplishments and his hopes for the future. He thanked the CWDC staff for their support in his role as Chair. He then turned it over to Toya to talk about her goals as Chair, which include diversity and inclusion, local and state collaboration, a focus on serving special populations, and increased partnerships with local workforce investment boards. The October meeting will be Toya’s first meeting as Chair, and Dave will assume the role of Past Chair.

Dave adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.