

## **GEORGIA MOUNTAINS ONE-STOP PARTNERS MEETING**

Georgia Mountains One-Stop  
Chattahoochee Center  
1856 Thompson Bridge Rd.  
Gainesville, GA 30501  
Minutes

The Georgia Mountains One-Stop Partners met on Tuesday, July 31, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was held at the One-Stop Center, 1856 Thompson Bridge Rd. Gainesville, GA. The following were present:

Beth Williams, GVRA/VR Program  
John Phillips, WorkSource Georgia Mountains  
Heather Feldman, Georgia Mountains Regional Commission  
Whitney Williams, WorkSource Georgia Mountains  
Michael Fisher, Ninth District Opportunity  
Diane Jackson, WorkSource Georgia Mountains  
Shelby Ward, North Georgia Technical College  
Chris Haley, North Georgia Technical College  
Tim McDonald, Lanier Technical College  
Shannon Cole, Lanier Technical College  
Jim Watson, Lanier Technical College  
Ebony Tucker, WorkSource Georgia Mountains  
Benjie Hopkins, Hopkins Associates  
Marsha Hopkins, Hopkins Associates

### Welcome and Introductions

Benjie Hopkins, Operator for the Georgia Mountains One-Stop Center, welcomed everyone, and had each person give a brief introduction.

Minutes from the May 29, 2018 Partners Meeting were emailed previously. A copy is posted on the website: [www.onestopworkgamtms.org](http://www.onestopworkgamtms.org)

### Announcements

John Phillips reported that management of the WorkSource Program for the State of Georgia formally transitioned from the Department of Economic Development to the Technical Colleges System of Georgia on July 1, 2018.

Tim McDonald announced that construction for the new Lanier Technical College campus is proceeding on schedule. Fall Classes begin two weeks early on August 3, 2018. They will end two weeks early to accommodate the scheduled move.

### Focus Topic: Robotics Program at North Georgia Technical College

Chris Haley, Industrial Systems Technology Instructor for North Georgia Technical College shared details about the college's Robotics Program. He noted that robotics is a rapidly growing field, with applications being implemented in almost all aspects of life. He cited examples of robots being used to prepare and served food in restaurants; transporting luggage in hotels; and counting and dispensing medications in hospitals. Current technology allows robots to observe a work process being performed by and human, and to repeat that process independently. A partnership between NGTC and FANUC (Fuji Automatic Numerical Control) has been developed. This is the industry's largest network of industrial robot system integrators.

Chris listed three main sources for the student population for the Robotics Program: 1) individuals retraining from another field; 2) new high school graduates; and 3) individuals who are working in the field, but who need additional certifications.

He stated that employers are eagerly seeking employees with these skills.

Many of the trainees take advantage of HOPE funding. Also, some individuals qualify for WIOA Incumbent Worker funding to pay for their training.

Chris asks three questions to those who are considering the field of robotics. 1) Are you naturally curious? 2) Do you like to work with your hands? 3) Do you like technology?

Chris described collaborative robots as those who work next to humans. He also described "lights out" factories. In these facilities, no human beings need to be inside for the plant to function. Robots can now perform intricate tasks such as threading nuts onto bolts. A limiting factor is cost effectiveness.

The demand for individuals skilled in robotics development and operation will continue to grow. North Georgia Technical College is playing a major role in meeting that demand.

### Updates from Partners

-Athens Technical College recently announced a four-million-dollar partnership with Piedmont Athens Regional Hospital.

-Lanier Technical College is involved in a five-million-dollar fund drive. Kubota recently committed one million dollars to this effort.

-North Georgia Technical College will begin classes on August 16, 2018. Harbin Lumber Company has provided two \$500 scholarships for NGTC students enrolled in Engineering Technology in the AAS program. An Industrial Summit is being planned for early next year.

-The GMRC Board members held their July meeting on the Blairsville Campus of NGTC. Heather Feldman noted that the facility and the hospitality there were outstanding.

-Legacy Link continues to provide workshops on "living well". An Employee Appreciation Day was held recently.

-Vocational Rehabilitation is observing 28 years since ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) was approved. Also, a STEM session for 15 to 19- year-old students with hearing deficiencies was held at the Ga. Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

-DOL is offering a Business Summit for Region 2 employers on Wed., Oct. 24, 2018 at Lanier College and Career Academy – the Oaks.

-WorkSource Georgia Academy is being held Aug. 13-15, 2018 in Athens, GA. This meeting is for partners to explore new strategies for collaboration.

-Heather Feldman was pleased to report that the WorkSource Georgia Mountains Career Coaches (Mobile Training Units), purchased by GMRC in late 2012, have now surpassed 10,000 in number of individuals served. This includes approximately 21,000 responses such as: resume preparation, career interest assessments, computer skills training, and job search assistance.

-The Georgia Mountains One-Stop reports the following service number comparisons for the quarter:  
April 2017 – June 2017 – 293 visits      April 2018 – June 2018 – 625 visits

-Michael Fisher reported that Ninth District Opportunity's energy assistance season is ending for the year, and their housing assistance emphasis will begin in the fall. A new DCA grant will allow them to better facilitate services to homeless individuals in thirteen counties. The program will prioritize services based on needs and vulnerability.

-The Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce is targeting smaller companies (with less than 100 employees) to participate in registered apprenticeship programs. The companies will receive offsets for their training costs. Tim McDonald explained that financial aid is available to individuals through HOPE and Pell grants. WorkSource Georgia Mountains is collaborating with this program. Companies will pull mentors from ten to twelve targeted companies to initiate this program.

-Whitney Williams announced that a Services Overview will be offered on the Career Coaches (Mobile Units. (The Services Overview will also continue to be offered on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. at the One-Stop Center).

#### Date for Next Meeting

The date for the next One-Stop Partners Meeting was set for Tuesday, September 25, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m.