

# MINUTES

Board of Postsecondary Education Credentials

December 4, 2018

10:00 a.m.

## **In attendance:**

### ***Members***

Steven Walker, Lt. Governor's designee  
Philip Thomas, NC State Superintendent of  
Public Schools' designee  
Christine Ryan, Commissioner of Labor's  
designee  
Elizabeth McDuffie, CFNC  
Stephanie McGarrah, NC Healthcare Association  
Hope Williams, NC Independent Colleges and  
Universities  
Anne Bacon, NC Community College System  
designee  
Liz Crabil, NC Department of Commerce  
designee  
Kimberly van Noort, UNC System Office  
designee  
Scott Corl, Office of Proprietary Schools

### ***Staff***

Blake Brewer, Lt. Governor's Office  
Angela Quick, RTI International  
Kayla Siler, RTI International  
Edna Wallace, RTI International  
Olivia Rice, RTI International

### ***Presenters***

Susan Barbitta, NC Community College System  
David Radwin, RTI International  
Caren Arbeit, RTI International  
Betty McGrath, NC Commerce  
Natassia Rodriguez Ott, RTI International

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## **Call to Order**

Steven Walker called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

## **Approval of the Minutes**

Upon the motion of Ms. McDuffie, seconded by Ms. Ryan, the minutes of the October 2, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved.

## **Military Credit for Prior Learning**

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Steven Walker recognized Edna Wallace, RTI International, to frame the conversation on Military Credit for Prior Learning. Ms. Wallace introduced Susan Barbitta, NC Community College System, to present on the work currently taking place in North Carolina.

Ms. Barbitta reviewed the imperative for NC to everything that we can for our active service military and veterans. She described the work that the NC Community College System and UNC System have led to determine how to award credit for prior learning based on military service. Ms. Barbitta also noted some ways that other states have been addressing this process and noted there would be a need for staff and funding to expand the work in NC. Ms. Barbitta confirmed that military credits for prior learning can be awarded for non-degree credentials as well as degrees.

Next steps for this work include development of an online system to make it easy to input information and find out how that translates to credits in the university and/or community college system (would also like to include private and independent colleges and universities). There is also a need to create bridge or gap courses that could be delivered online and address the gap in learning to allow for awarding the appropriate amount of credits.

Dr. Williams noted how the private and independent colleges have been engaging with military in NC and offering course and programs on base to support active military and veterans.

Mr. Walker made a motion that a recommendation from this board include staff and funding for expanded the work on military credits for prior learning. After a second from Ms. Ryan, this recommendation was unanimously approved.

### **Ensuring Postsecondary Education Credential Quality: National Perspective**

Mr. Walker recognized Angela Quick, RTI International, to frame the conversation on credential quality. Dr. Quick talked about the legislation for the board and the emphasis that board members have placed on wanting to ensure quality in credentials. Dr. Quick then introduced David Radwin, RTI International, to present on credential quality.

Mr. Radwin shared three caveats for the conversation: Quality is multidimensional and mission-dependent (defined here a gainful employment); Quality can be measured at different levels; and Students themselves affect quality. Recommendations for measuring quality include: report at program (not institution) level, display return on investment metrics, show employment supply/demand, include private institutions and list top employers. Mr. Radwin also provided examples for what other states are doing to share this information.

Discussion from the group on the value of providing this information and the need for some additional discussion on defining quality and making sure the non-degree tracks are included in the data as well.

Dr. Quick then introduced Caren Arbeit, RTI International, to present information on Quality Indicators for Technology Related Bootcamps in NC. Ms. Arbeit discussed the lack of data available in this area and provided some recommendations that would help NC be a model in this area.

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### **Ensuring Postsecondary Education Credential Quality: North Carolina Perspective**

Mr. Walker recognized Edna Wallace to frame the next conversation on the North Carolina perspective. Scott Corl, Office of Proprietary Schools, presented information on the processes in place to ensure quality with proprietary schools in NC. Betty McGrath, NC Department of Commerce, presented information on NC Tower and the Common Follow-up System. Noted the variety of organizations involved in pulling together this data and the recent progress to work on including private and independent colleges/universities.

### **Industry Recognized Certificates Research Proposal**

Mr. Walker recognized Edna Wallace and Natassia Rodriguez Ott, RTI International, to review the research proposal for industry recognized credentials. The board members gave approval for moving forward with the research and reporting back at the next meeting.

### **Next Steps and Adjournment**

Ms. Wallace reminded the board of the next meeting date, February 5 and reviewed the items from the action plan that will be for discussion in February.

Mr. Walker entertained a motion to adjourn. Upon the motion of Ms. McDuffie, seconded by Ms. McGarrah, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. Mr. Walker adjourned the meeting at 11:31 a.m.