



## WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD OF TULARE COUNTY

### MEETING

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February 18, 2026, Minutes

**WIB Directors Present:** Colby Wells – Chair, Joe Hallmeyer – Vice Chair, Randy Baerg – Treasurer/Secretary, Amy Shuklian, Brandon Lovenburg, Esbeydy Ruvalcaba, Gamaliel Aguilar, Jeff Hudson-Covolo, Rodney Wilson, Thomas Geiger, Tricia Stever Blattler, Yolanda Valdez

**WIB Directors Absent:** Brent Calvin, Jake Piland, Miguel Mora, Robert Kleyn

1. **Call to Order:** Colby Wells - Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.
2. **Public Comment:** Colby Wells - Chair called for public comments; there were no public comments.
3. **Success Story:** [Outstanding Workforce Professional of the Year: Alberto Arzate](#) - Alberto Arzate is a Program Coordinator at the Visalia Employment Connection Center. He focuses on helping individuals who have been laid off from their jobs to reconnect to the workforce, through re-employment and training services. He also serves as the lead for a special grant focused on helping job seekers find employment in the industrial sector. He was selected because of the compassion and empathy that he shows to every job seekers he works with.
4. **Consent Items:**
  - a. Workforce Investment Board Meeting Minutes  
Approve the January 14, 2026, WIB Meeting Minutes.
  - b. Agreement with Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) Foundation for Edison STEM Internship and Scholarship Funds  
Approve an agreement with the TCOE Foundation for the Edison STEM Pathways project and accept funds in the amount not to exceed \$35,000, for the period of January 1, 2026, through September 30, 2026.

Motion was made by Joe Hallmeyer, second by Thomas Geiger to approve the consent items, carried by unanimous vote.

**5. Regular Items:**

- a. Student Training and Employment Program (STEP) Agreement Amendment
  - i. Approve an agreement extension with The Foundation for California Community Colleges (FCCC) and accept additional grant funds in the amount of \$346,809.33 to continue to operate the STEP program through December 31, 2026.
  - ii. Modify Program Year (PY) 2025-2026 WIOA Title I Out-of-School and PY 2026 In-School Youth Services agreements to incorporate STEP funds to operate the project as follows:
    - a. Community Services Employment Training (CSET) for PY 2025-26 WIOA Title I Out of School Youth (OSY) Services agreement #3792526 for the West Region for up to \$105,680 to operate the STEP program January 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026.
    - b. Proteus Inc. for PY 2026 WIOA Title I In-School Youth (ISY) Services Leadership, Education, and Pathways to Employment (LEAP) Program agreement #26-SRC-1 for the designated high school sites and the East Region for up to \$317,040 to operate the STEP program January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026.

Motion was made by Yolanda Valdez, second by Brandon Lovenburg to approve the STEP agreement amendment, carried by unanimous vote.

**6. Information/Discussion Items:**

- a. Retirement of WIB Members
- b. WIB Member Orientation Update
- c. Agreements Executed by WIB Interim Executive Director Between \$5,000-\$20,000
- d. Performance Report Card and Special Grants Report for WIOA Program Year 25-26 Quarter 2
- e. Workforce Data Newsletter – Volume 10, Issue 12 – December 2025
- f. Tulare County Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) – December 2025

**7. WIB Committee Reports**

- a. Program & Evaluation Committee
- b. Youth Committee

**8. Closed Session**

- a. The Board intends to meet in Closed Session concerning:  
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE EMPLOYMENT  
(Government Code Section 54957(b)(1))  
TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD (WIB)

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.1, the Board reconvened in open session and reported the following action.

**WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD OF TULARE COUNTY**

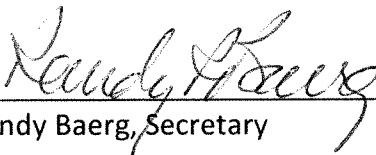
*WIB Meeting Minutes*

*February 18, 2026*

Motion was made by Yolanda Valdez, seconded by Rodney Wilson, to approve a recommendation to the Tulare County Board of Supervisors establishing the salary for the Executive Director, Workforce Investment Board, in the amount discussed in closed session, carried by unanimous vote.

9. **Good of the Order/Adjourn:** There being no further business; the meeting was adjourned by Colby Wells, the Chair, at 8:46 a.m.

Minutes submitted for approval by Randy Baerg, Secretary.

 03/11/26  
Randy Baerg, Secretary                      Date Approved

APPROVED BY  
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD  
**MINUTES OF 03-11-2026**