

March 28, 2024

Mr. Mark Mattke, Screening Committee Chair  
501 N. Riverpoint Blvd., Suite 126  
P.O. Box 6000, MS 1004  
Spokane WA 99217-6000

Dear Mr. Mattke and CCS VPWD Screening Committee,

I am writing today to express my interest in the position of Vice President of Workforce Development. As I reflect on the professional responsibilities of this position and my core competencies as a nationally recognized leader in workforce at a community college, I believe I would complement the Community Colleges of Spokane and provide collaborative and experienced insight to the Chancellor and the Colleges as it relates to workforce development.

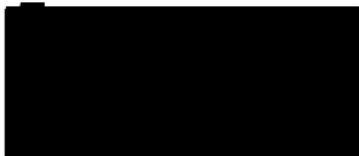
In my over 15 years of experience at a comprehensive community college in Michigan I have had the opportunity to work with employers in every sector, workforce boards, economic developers, business organizations, local government, state government, federal government and labor organizations. This experience could be valuable to the Spokane community, especially for a new position that is responsible for building and implementing a systemic workforce development system that is relevant and responsive to local employers.

The work I have done, and work I have led, in west Michigan has supported diverse populations, helping them to gain skills, certificates and degrees to obtain good, living wage careers. At the same time, I have worked to change systems to be more effective for our citizens and our employer partners. I believe with my ability to build relationships, forge strong partnerships and produce results, Spokane community colleges will strengthen their institutions, strengthen local employers and make a positive difference in the northwest.

Programs developed during my tenure in Michigan have been examples that have been replicated in other regions. We've practiced continual innovation, in program design, program modality and system modification. There are many examples for you to review on my resume. I look forward to the opportunity to share my accomplishments, experiences and ideas with you and the screening committee. The opportunity to join the Community Colleges of Spokane would be a highlight of my career.

Respectfully,

  
Julie Parks



# Julie F. Parks, M.A.Ed

---

## SUMMARY

---

Strategic and visionary workforce development leader with over 15 years of experience in developing and maintaining collaborative relationships with employers, government agencies, economic developers, business membership organizations, community non-profits, K-12 school districts, community colleges and baccalaureate institutions. Proven track record of innovation in workforce programming, planning, curriculum development, certificate expansion and systems development. Adept at designing and implementing innovative practices that align with strategic goals and enhancing human-centered design service delivery. Utilizes exceptional interpersonal and communication skills to guide and develop teams and collaborate internally and externally. A diligent and goal-oriented top performer.

## EXPERIENCE

---

Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

### **Dean, School of Workforce Training** (June 2023 – Present)

- Provide administrative leadership, support and supervision for the School. Hiring, evaluation, promotion for all non-credit faculty, trainers, administration and operations staff.
- Updated, facilitated advisory groups and refined the vision and strategic direction of the School.
- Identified, wrote and obtained \$1.1 million dollars in grant funding (Area Agency on Aging Grant, Carhardt All Within My Hands Foundation Grant, State of Michigan Impact Grant for Corewell Health, State of Michigan Motorcycle Safety Grant).
- Responsible for Perkins V Funding, creation of systems, data and reporting structure.
- Identified, wrote and obtained national projects with the Advancing Community Equity and Upward Mobility project with the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce and the Lumina Foundation and, the Industry Focused Job Pathways to Enable Youth and Adults with the University of Pittsburgh, the Gates Foundation and the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce.
- Led the College strategic plan “end” focused on Community. Facilitated internal and external stakeholders to create tactics and metrics.
- Recognized by U.S. Department of Labor for Healthcare Apprenticeships by USDOL Region 5. (First in the United State Apprenticeships for Neurodiagnostics Technicians).
- Serve on talent/workforce committees representing the region’s community colleges with TalentFirst (150 CEO led organization); Discover Manufacturing Employer Sector Group; Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, West Coast Chamber of Commerce, The Right Place (economic development), Lakeshore Advantage (economic development); State of Michigan Labor and Economic Opportunity Credit for Prior Learning Expansion Initiative.
- Created and implemented the accelerated curriculum development model for the College working with faculty and administrators.
- Created systems with employers and the workforce board to advance apprenticeships with an 78% increase resulting for the system changes enacted.
- In collaboration with Department Heads and Program Directors assured that programs and departments maintained or earned program accreditations.
- Served on the team that wrote the assurance argument for College re-accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission.
- Lead new program development teams that include employers, faculty and subject matter experts for: Automation Integration Certificate, Industrial Automation Certificate, English Language Learning

Welding Program, English Language CNC Machining Program, Diesel Mechanic and the upcoming Electric Vehicle Automotive Certificate Program.

**Interim Dean, School of Business and Industry** (June 2021-May 2023).

- Identified, wrote, and obtained over \$19 million dollars in grant funding for innovative programming in healthcare, advanced manufacturing, and technology for over 2210 individuals in west Michigan. (U.S. DOL One Workforce Grant, Environmental Protection Agency Water Careers, HRSA Community Health Worker Grant, U.S. DOL Strengthening Community Colleges Grant, Federal earmark for lab, State of Michigan Impact Grant, W.K. Kellogg Foundation Empowerment Grant).
- Provided administrative leadership for the School during the reorganization of academic affairs. Responsible for 16 departments, faculty and staff.
- Identified, wrote and obtained national projects with Jobs for the Future, Achieving the Dream and the State of Michigan's Office of 60x30 called Improving Economic Mobility for Adult Learners.
- Lead team that developed K-12 initiatives with education partners to build pathways for students to skilled trade programs in construction, healthcare, IT, energy and manufacturing. These included direct credit and bridge programs.
- Built employer coalitions to support students through internships, work-based learning experiences.
- Lead new program development teams with faculty and employers for: Data Science Certificate Program, Artificial Intelligence Certificate Program, created Culinary Bootcamp. Revised programming in Criminal Justice, the Brewery Program and the MRI program.
- Member of the faculty collective bargaining team for contract negotiations.

**Executive Director, Workforce Training and Training Solutions** (2010-2021)

- Administrative responsibility for non-credit apprenticeships, continuing education, job training, customized training and professional development. Hired, supervised and evaluated faculty, trainers and staff.
- Identified, wrote and obtained \$35 million in grants that effected over 4890 individuals in west Michigan (U.S. DOL TAACCT Grant Michigan Coalition for Advanced Manufacturing, USDOL America's Promise for Healthcare Pathways, W.K. Kellogg Grant Pathways to Success, JP Morgan Chase, Department of Education promise neighborhoods grant (with Western Michigan University), U.S. DOL Pathways Out of Poverty, U.S. Department of Transportation CDL Grant, W.K. Kellogg Foundation GRAAHI Grant, State of Michigan Community College Skilled Trades Equipment Grant, American Association of Community Colleges Metallica Grant – 3 years; American Association of Community Colleges Apprenticeship Grant.)
- Named one of Intel and Dell's 15 Artificial Intelligence Leader Schools.
- Best Practice cited by US Department of labor for creating and leading the employer sector group West Michigan Healthcare Employers Council.
- Advocated for and set-up the Michigan New Jobs Training Projects. The GRCC team leads the State in the number of projects with over 22,157 individuals trained and \$26 million dollars in training funds.
- Lead the faculty and employer subject matter experts in the creation of Battery Bootcamp for LG Energy Solutions, Johnson Controls SAFT (now Clarios), Trans-Matic, Inc. Created new curriculum for composites for Energetx and Tiara Yachts. Student graduate from that program was recognized by the President at the State of the Union in 2012. Public Works Academy.
- Moved all non-credit program off the College's general fund budget in 2012 to become self-funded departments within the College.

**Other Positions** – *details available upon request*

Budget Officer, Western Michigan University Grand Rapids Campus, Michigan

Inventory Control Manager, Meijer Warehouses, Lansing, Michigan  
Administrative Services Manager, Meijer Warehouses, Lansing, Michigan  
Manager Trainee, Meijer Stores, Grand Rapids and Lansing, Michigan

## **EDUCATION**

---

Master of Education, Curriculum, Central Michigan University  
Bachelor of Arts in History, Michigan State University

## **AWARDS, RECOGNITION**

---

2024 Finalist, Newsmaker of the Year, Crain's Grand Rapids Business  
2024 Finalist, Bellwether Awards for Workforce, Healthcare Apprenticeships Earn and Learn Model  
2023 Board Member, National Council Workforce Education  
2022 National Association of Workforce Boards, Partnership of the Year with West Michigan Works!  
2022 West Michigan Works! Partner of the Year  
2020 Grand Rapids Salute to Women Award Winner  
2020 Michigan Works Association Impact Winner for Certified Nursing Assistant Program for  
Medilodge of Holland  
2019 League for Innovation, Innovation of the Year, Sterile Processing Apprenticeship  
2019 Finalist, Bellwether Awards for Workforce, Public Works Academy  
2019 Michigan Works Association Impact Award for Sterile Processing Apprenticeship for Spectrum  
Health  
2019 President, Michigan Association of Continuing Education and Training  
2017 Michigan Association of Continuing Education and Training Special Project Award for ESL/CNC  
Precision Machining Pilot  
2016 Community Partner of the Year, Kent Intermediate School District  
2011 League for Innovation, Innovation of the Year, Composite Technician Program  
2010 Grand Rapids Community College, Employee Excellence Award

*Presentation listing available by request.*