

A VOLUNTARY WORKFORCE COALITION · 2026

Bridge to Work

Advisory Board & Sponsor Group · Pre-Read

Utah's infrastructure boom is outrunning its workforce. Bridge to Work is a voluntary coalition convening employers, training providers, veterans, students, and state partners around a single direct-hire and direct-enroll event in 2026 — with structured follow-up to convert conversations into hires and enrollments.

This packet is the Monday pre-read for the advisory board and sponsor group. It frames what we're convening to do, the decisions on the table, and the asks of advisors over the next 60 days.



Scan to open the site

Point a phone camera at the code to open utahbridgetowork.org — the live posture, the intake form, and the latest event details. Share it with anyone you'd like to plug in.

POSTURE — WHAT WE ARE, WHAT WE'RE NOT

Unofficial, unaffiliated, but sailing strong. No new entity, no central treasury, no contracts. We move on trust, transparency, and outcomes — modeled on the Utah Grid Edge Forum playbook.

01

What we're convening to do

The job of this advisory group, in one page.

The mission

Stand up a Utah-specific bridge between infrastructure employers with real openings and the talent pools that can fill them — veterans, students, career-changers, and apprenticeship cohorts — before pipeline gaps stall \$200B+ of planned investment.

The vehicle

A single flagship matchmaker event in 2026, supported by a lightweight Voluntary coalition, working upstream. 20–30 employers. 10–15 training providers. Hundreds of candidates. One day. Real interviews, real enrollments, real follow-up.

Why advisors, why now

We've moved from idea to flagship event in ~90 days. That speed only works if the advisory group does three things: vouch for it inside their networks, pressure-test the model before it scales, and help land the first cohort of anchor employers and sponsors.

ONE-LINE FRAME

Bridge to Work is a matchmaker — not a career fair, not a new agency, not a fundraising vehicle. Every participant brings near-term opportunity, or doesn't participate.

02

Decisions we need from this group

What we want to leave Monday's call with.

Anchor employers (target: 6–8 named)

Which 6–8 employers should we close as anchors before June 1? Advisors commit to one warm intro each.

Sponsor model (in-kind, vendor-direct)

Confirm the vendor-direct sponsorship model — sponsors fund the venue, catering, and candidate support directly, not into a treasury. Surface any blockers from your organization's legal/finance lens.

Venue + date lock

Confirm the 2026 window. We need a Wasatch Front venue commitment by early June to start outbound to employers and candidates.

Candidate pipeline owners

Veterans (Anca lead), students (which 2–3 university partners?), career-changers (which workforce boards / re-entry programs?), apprenticeships (Northwest Lineman, ABC, others?).

Coalition naming & public posture

Land on how we describe the coalition publicly — "Utah Bridge to Work, a voluntary coalition" — and whether any partner needs an opt-in/opt-out before we list logos.

Pilot success criteria

Confirm the bar: 50+ on-the-spot conversations that convert to a scheduled interview or enrollment within 48 hours; 10+ hires/enrollments within 90 days.

03

Event vision

What the day actually looks like, and why it works.

Experience Zone (not a booth row)

The floor is organized as an **Experience Zone**, not a career-fair perimeter. Candidates rotate through structured stations — résumé prep, skills-screening, on-the-spot interviews, training enrollment — instead of drifting between tables.

Three vendor categories on the floor

- **Heavy Iron** — utilities, EPCs, linemen, civil, transmission, substation, data center construction. Wheeler CAT, Quanta operating companies, regional EPCs.
- **Tech & Automation** — controls, SCADA, instrumentation, data center operations, grid edge software, renewables O&M.
- **Building Science** — HVAC, mechanical, energy efficiency, water infrastructure, facility services.

The 1:5 ratio

We target ~1 vendor for every 5 prepared candidates. Below that and employers waste their day; above that and candidates queue. This is the single hardest number to hold, and the one we will fight to defend.

WHY NOT A TRADITIONAL CAREER FAIR

Career fairs optimize for booth count. We optimize for conversion. Every vendor arrives with real openings, an empowered decision-maker on the floor, and a 48-hour follow-up commitment — or they don't get a slot.

04

Sector plug-ins

Where each advisor's network connects.

<p>Energy & Utilities</p> <p>Transmission build-out, substation upgrades, distribution workforce, linemen pipelines. Hooks: Quanta, Wheeler CAT, NLC, RMP, IPP, UAMPS.</p>	<p>Data Centers</p> <p>Construction + ongoing operations. Hooks: Meta, Google, Microsoft hyperscale builds in Utah; mechanical/electrical contractor base.</p>
<p>Construction & Civil</p> <p>ABC Utah, AGC, mechanical/electrical/civil contractors. Apprenticeship pipelines that already exist — we just need to surface them.</p>	<p>Veterans & Re-Entry</p> <p>Hill AFB transitions, Utah National Guard, Hire Heroes, Helmets to Hardhats, veteran-serving nonprofits.</p>
<p>Education & Training</p> <p>USU, UVU, SLCC, Weber State, Davis Tech, Bridgerland, Mountainland — stackable credentials, two-year programs, and adjacent four-year tracks.</p>	<p>State & Public Sector</p> <p>OED, GOEO, DWS, Operation Gigawatt alignment. We complement, not compete.</p>

05

Pilot roadmap → durable decision

From this Monday call to the 2026 event and the post-event decision.

Now → June 1 · Anchor

Lock 6–8 anchor employers. Confirm venue + date. Stand up vendor + candidate intake forms (live). Public posture: "voluntary coalition, 2026 matchmaker."

June → mid-July · Build

Open vendor applications. Begin candidate outreach through veterans, university, and re-entry channels. Sponsor commitments locked in writing.

Mid-July → event · Scale

Vendor curation, training-provider matching, candidate prep workshops, marketing through partner networks. Brief the state and Operation Gigawatt.

2026 · Flagship Matchmaker

One-day event. Experience Zone format. Real-time interviews, enrollments, and partner intros. Live outcomes capture on the floor.

48 hours after · Conversion loop

Every vendor reports back hires, enrollments, and scheduled interviews. Candidate follow-up emails go out. Coalition publishes early outcomes.

90 days after · Durability decision

Advisory group reconvenes. Decide what becomes durable: a recurring event, a sector working-group, or a sunset. Outcomes lead, not optics.

06

Asks of advisors

Specific, time-boxed, easy to say yes to.

One warm intro — by May 30

One named anchor employer or sponsor from your network. Steve handles the outreach; we just need the intro.

Twenty minutes — in June

A 20-minute working call to pressure-test vendor curation criteria and the 1:5 ratio against your sector.

Logo + one-line endorsement — by July 15

We list partners on utahbridgetowork.org as a voluntary coalition. Plain language, no obligation beyond goodwill.

Honest pushback — anytime

If something looks off — vendor mix, candidate pipeline, public posture — tell Steve directly. This only works if advisors actually advise.

Show up — 2026 Matchmaker

Spend two hours on the floor. Watch the conversion loop in real time. Tell us what to keep and what to kill before we decide what becomes durable.

CADENCE

Monthly 30-minute advisory call (first Wednesday). Async updates between. Two in-person checkpoints: pre-event briefing in early May, post-event debrief within 30 days.

07

Contact & intake

Where everything lives between now and the event.

Program leads

Steve Thomas — Program Lead, Bridge to Work. Director of Energy & Infrastructure, Currie & Brown. Convenes the advisory group, owns sponsor and anchor-employer relationships.

Anca Matcovschi — Program Co-Lead. Marketing executive, strategist, and consultant. Veterans advocate, university professor, and award-winning economic development leader. Leads candidate pipelines and on-site experience design.

Intake forms (live)

Vendor / employer intake: forms.gle/odSEAE2YD7DeaGPL6

Candidate, sponsor, and partner intake routes through utahbridgetowork.org and info@utahbridgetowork.org.

Drive folders

Advisory roundtable: drive.google.com

Candidate resources: drive.google.com

Vendors: drive.google.com

POSTURE — ONE LAST TIME

Speed over bureaucracy. Trust over contracts. Outcomes over optics. Complement, don't duplicate. If we keep those four straight, the pilot works.