ARC Meeting Minutes
January 13 - 15, 2026

In Attendance

Sarah McGraw, WA
Gary Sincick, OR
Joe Skeen, UT
Salah Ahmed, MN
Elizabeth Jerkins, CO
Erica Lashley, VA
Kyle Davis, VA
Bharman Gulati, NV
Steven Pennington, NC
Joe Jaehnke, WI
Heather Duerst, WI
Matt Steadman, UT
Jeff DeBellis, NC
Bill McMahon, COS
Dr. Yifan Wang, NJ
Steve Duthie, MT
Mike Curtis, WI
Wayne Rourke, MI
Matt Meadows,
Maali Wilson, SC
Noah Violette, SC
Bryan Cook, FL
Oriane Casale, MN, Chair

Note: Presentations are available in the LMI ARC Forum here
https://ulmita.org/forum/presentations/january2026arcmeetingpresentations

For access, register here ULMITA

Tuesday Jan 13

Welcome and Intros

Meeting Goals and Federal Picture – see presentation
Presentation on ARC 2025 accomplishments and changing federal landscape in preparation for strategic planning.

- Make America Skilled Again EO: focus on high wage, high demand jobs requiring less than a BA.
- Workforce Pell: Financial aid for training lasting 8 to 14 weeks and offered by accredited institutions that prepare for high-skill, high-wage or in-demand occupations and meet employers' hiring needs. Determined through the state certification process. "High-skill" has the same meaning as under the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. "In-demand" includes assessments of current and future economic impact and job growth. Beginning in 2029–30, placement must be in a **related occupation** within 180 days of completion, **requiring SOC code reporting**. This may require wage records enhanced with SOC code.
- Education programs are moving over to DOL including CTE and Perkins related programs

State updates

1. OR – people who produce the data load data into the WID. A technical team creates tools. Working on website accessibility, big project, very time consuming. Supported by agency with tools, especially for testing. Have used a lot of AI to assist in the project. Will start working on a better tool to display JVS data once accessibility project is complete.
2. WI – Developing a tool for career exploration for kids. Working with IT partners to link WID 3.0 to all data tools. WID database manager does lots of other things too including ways to make web tools and website better, licensed occupations and nursing survey.
3. NC – Developing tool using Data Axle employer database. Product development and cleaning up website. **What did people do about missing Oct data? Put in NULL for those rows so that it would show up as a gap in data tools.** Creating ChatBot. Creating views off WID and exposing to AI. Moving to Highcharts for some tools. It looks better and is cheaper than Tableau but not easy to use. Good for ongoing tools but not adhoc analysis. NC is part of C2ER Data Insights academy and LMI advisory committee.
4. FL – use WID for data dissemination to create Tableau dashboards. Also build products off WID. Have a DBA who loads WID tables. Others on the team work on visualizations
5. WA – Working toward using the WID for tool development.
6. MT – Runs multi-state LMI Explorer off the WID. Steve Duthie is the WID DBA. Use Tableau. Access from IT is an ongoing issue for many states. Looking into R.
7. MN lost our DBA (Amanda Rohrer). Program people keep the WID updated but at the moment don't have a lot of database expertise on staff.

LEWIS update: working to improve speed of LEWIS. Working on SKA analyzer. Working on WIDCEnter.org website security. Introduced Joe Skeen– new LEWIS developer. Need to schedule LEWIS training – no training held in 2025. Have 450 LMI Forum users including C2ER and BLS and ETA staff.

WID update: MT handled a lot of requests for tech assistance over the summer and fall but requests have slowed.
WIDCenter.org update: Content has been updated as of December 2025. Current focus is on security. Next focus will be on accessibility and navigation improvement as well as ongoing content improvement.

JEDX / U.S. Chamber of Commerce Presentation on Enhanced U.I. Wage Records – Check https://ulmita.org/forum/arc for presentation

> Article on potential new uses of enhanced UI wage records: States face decisions on Trump's big tax and policy law | AP News

State Survey findings: see presentation

- 70% response rate, with only a few states not responding.
- The data provides a snapshot of current resource utilization and needs.
- 57% of respondents are aware of and use ETA and LMI community resources 83% of those using WIDCenter.org.
- Need for technical advancement and collaboration among states.
    - More than half of all respondents want help with AI resources, advanced analysis, WID implementation and dashboard development.

- Qualitative feedback highlighted several recurring themes, most notably the need for an improved user experience on WIDCenter.org and a desire for more structured training and shared resources.

Strategic planning session 1: What is the ARC now? What are our deliverables? What else have we accomplished? What does ARC bring to the table? Resources, skills, time Who are our customers and constituents? What are our customers main issues/problems/needs?

Discussion summary:

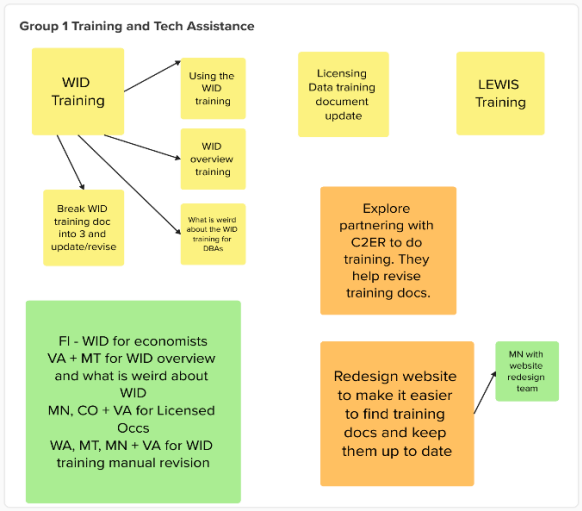
- Technology has changed dramatically so the role of ARC has evolved. What are we doing or should be doing to help states?
- In demand certifications by state
- More training (all we did in 2025 was WID 3.0 and accessibility video)
- Better, easier to use WIDCenter.org
- Monthly virtual and bi-annual in person meetings are valuable to get a sense of what other states are doing.
- LMI shops differ in terms of technical skills. Some are more weighted toward analytical skills while others have a mix of technical and analytical. ARC should provide help to states that don't have the technical skills in house. Some are under-resourced in terms of technical skills.
- The WID is useful in that it provides the basis for consistency across states and a database structure so you don't have to reinvent the wheel. But every state should have the option of customizing their WID to meet their needs. But how do we use the structure to encourage data sharing and sharing of tools and visualizations?
- Goal: we want to make LMI shops stronger and better at what they do.
- Develop a centralized WID with all states' data.
- Training on newer ways of pulling data - python
- If we take this on, we need to have stable ARC staff person who can keep the WID updated – ask MN for WIDCenter staff PD.
- Better skills taxonomy and better educational classifications by occ, CIP-SOC crosswalk improvements
- Training in how to best use AI

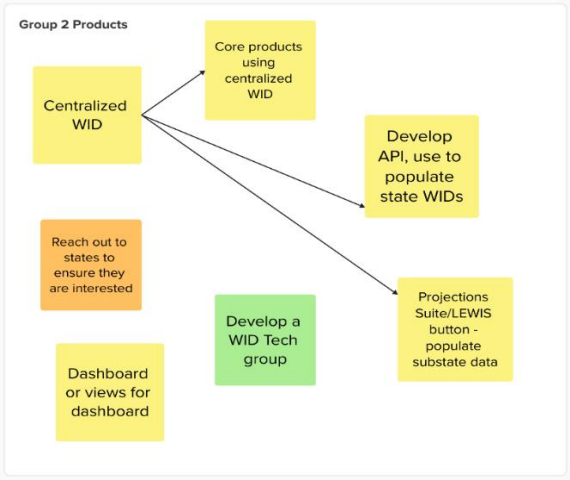
- Workgroups:
    - Tools and shared products
    - Website revisions – did not meet
    - Training and technical assistance
    - Communication and research

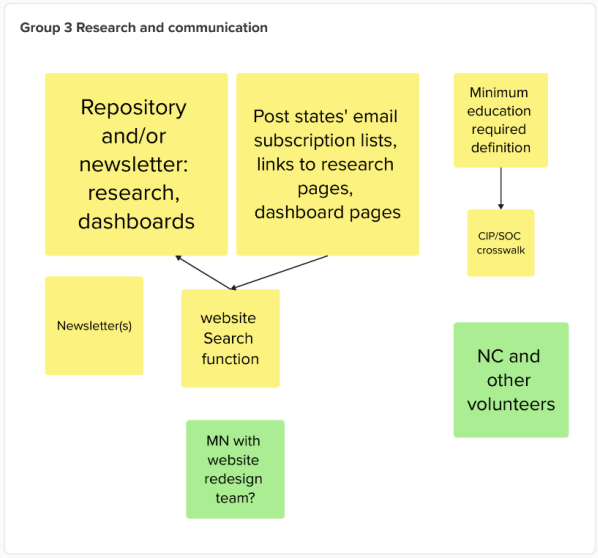
Tuesday Jan 14

- **Strategic Planning Sessions 2**

    - Small teams design 3 to 4 specific products or services.
    - Shark tank – ranking - how do ideas relate back to the survey results, customer discussion?
    - Resource reality mapping and timeline
    - How do we organize ourselves to accomplish all of this?


Group 1 Training and Tech Assistance
WID Training
Using the WID training
WID overview training
What is weird about the WID training for DBAs
Break WID training doc into 3 and update/revise
Licensing Data training document update
LEWIS Training
Explore partnering with C2ER to do training. They help revise training docs.
FI - WID for economists
VA + MT for WID overview and what is weird about WID
MN, CO + VA for Licensed Occs
WA, MT, MN + VA for WID training manual revision
Redesign website to make it easier to find training docs and keep them up to date
MN with website redesign team


Group 2 Products
Centralized WID
Core products using centralized WID
Develop API, use to populate state WIDs
Reach out to states to ensure they are interested
Develop a WID Tech group
Projections Suite/LEWIS button - populate substate data
Dashboard or views for dashboard

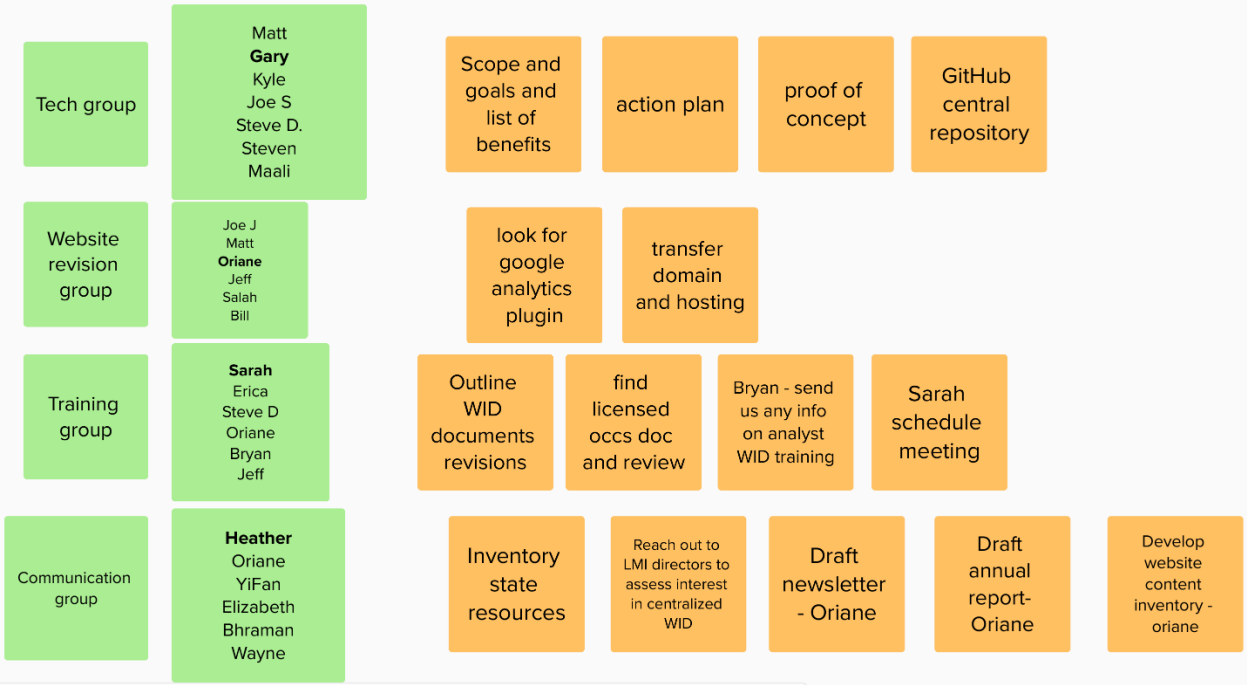

Group 3 Research and communication
Repository and/or newsletter: research, dashboards
Post states' email subscription lists, links to research pages, dashboard pages
Minimum education required definition
CIP/SOC crosswalk
Newsletter(s)
website Search function
NC and other volunteers
MN with website redesign team?

New, Emerging, and Obsolete Occupations presentation, IL and IA – see presentation

Mapping NLx data – see presentation

COS updates, certifications and AI research– see presentation

Strategic planning session 3 – How do we organize ourselves: committee structure, description and goals?



Thursday, January 15

Subcommittee working group breakouts

Action Items strategic planning/committees

- Meet during regular monthly meetings as breakouts. Maybe every other monthly meeting will be the full group with a report out from each subgroup. Extend the meeting time to 1.5 hours. Can continue to use Mural.
- Website group will meet sooner
- Next in-person meeting – Last week in July in Denver.

Don Haughton, report out on meeting, ETA priorities

Don updates

- A lot of focus on O*NET under new leadership. Looking at how to improve it.
    - Skills based hiring
    - But other than that not focusing on the use cases

- Workforce Pell grants. Moving Pell from Dept of Ed to DOL. Increased focus on performance reporting/program measures and effectiveness. So how to do that.
- Credentialing and licensing are in the spotlight – very difficult to get a reliable universe of state licenses.
- NLx research hub job opening estimator – Bill will attend the next meeting

ARC updates

- ARC meeting presentations
    - Enhance UI wage records – Don's comments is that DOL economist is very interested in this. Looks like the right people are starting to take notice of this.
    - NEO occs – will pass on to Don. The SOC committee is close to finalizing comments review from first Federal Register notice. May or June is target for putting out another Federal Register notice to announce results of that. So close to moving into phase two.
    - Mapping NLx data
- COS update – Don made the connection to using AI to help identify licenses at the state level.
- LEWIS update
- WID 3.0 update – no WID updates this year so nothing to add to TEGL
- State ARC survey

Strategic Planning update

- Reviewed process and working committees and goals for each committee
- Don feedback communication is key – the work is important but people need to know about it. Need to communicate with states regularly. Outreach is critical. Email blasts, newsletters, communicating with the ETA regional federal project officers in the region and with the BLS regional offices.
- Suggested API coming out of the nationwide WID.

Adjourn