

Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium

Minutes

2/1/07

The Feb1st meeting of the Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium was brought to order by President Vickie DeThomas at 7:30 am.

Present:

Members

Cliff Ankney - Podinks
Doug Bartosh – Unimach Manufacturing
Brian Delvecchio – Penn State Electro-Optics
Vickie DeThomas - OmniTech Partners
Joe Goldcamp – Nature's Blend Wood Products
Patrick Huth – Penn State Electro-Optics
Joanne Petras – Fuzion Technologies
Denise Rosenberger – Dielectric Solutions
Chuck Slagle - CES Design
Alex Stockmal – Mid Atlantic District Labs

Resource Partners

Kate Curtis – Clarion University – SBDC
Karma Edward – Manufacturing Assistance Center
David English – Armstrong Educational Trust
Jane Gardner – Indiana University of PA
Pat Hollinger – Penn State University
Justin Nolder – Dept. of Planning & Development
Mary Salony - WIB
Mea Scholl – Integrated Quality Systems

Minutes

Prior meeting minutes were approved with a motion from Doug Bartosh and seconded by Chuck Slagle

Resource Partner Update

All resource partners were given the opportunity to inform the group of current happening at their sites.

David English - Dave informed the group for Joe Fullerton, that the Lenape CNC Class is starting this month and Forklift Training will begin in March. He also mentioned that he needed the employer surveys completed as soon as possible. It is very important that he receives them back. The workforce forum will be held at Lenape on March 16th.

Pat Hollinger – Penn State – Pat distributed the spring schedules and stated that the classes can be duplicated at individual job sites.

Mary Salony – WIB – The Industry Partnership Coordinator will start Monday. Her name is Lori Harvey and she will be attending next months meeting. Vickie would like to utilize her in all counties.

Karma Edwards – MAC – They have a class starting March 12th, it is a 15 week class and another will be held in May. Vickie mentioned that they could also come to the different businesses and train.

Kate Curtis – SBDC – The SBDC hired a new training coordinator, which is very exciting for them. There was a SBDC poll to see what businesses would like, it reported taxes and financial training.

Jane Gardner – IUP – They are interviewing tomorrow for Assistant Director, she is hopeful by the next meeting there will be someone present.

Justin Nolder, DPD – They are preparing the announcements for Armtex. It will be held August 15 – 17th.

Mea Scholl – Integrated Quality Systems – They are still working in New York on change management. They are looking for federal money for security risk management.

Rich Muth – Indiana University – Northpointe - They are recruiting for the new masters program at Northpointe. They will also have the Bachelors of Marketing in the fall.

Speakers for 2007

There will be a guest speaker in March from the CareerTrack on different programs. April's meeting will include the IT Consortium speaker. May's meeting will be the Lean Manufacturing speaker from IUP. We will be sending non-members letters and hosting a breakfast. June's meeting will include a speaker from the state, the PA Manufacturing Ombudsman. Dave English is checking on his availability.

Lean pocket guides were distributed to the members. There were also H/R Manuals from JJ Keller. Keller will call for yearly updates which are optional; there are no purchasing requirements. You can also get other topics for your company.

Work Certification Program

The opening session for the program will include 5 instructors for a 90 hour training program. Dave English stated the program was very thorough. Lisa Brochetti, from New Choices/New Options, sat in on the program and was very impressed. The exam included 75 question and students must pass with an 80% or higher. Instructors must pass with a 90% or higher. The material is very appropriate and is very much entry level. Denise Rosenberger stated Dielectric Solutions would definitely want the employees that completed that program. Vickie stated that we have \$30,000 to run a pilot program before summer. Once the pilot program is completed, the CareerLink will be the recruitment venue. Vickie suggested advertising the program showing the Consortium support. The 90 hour program usually runs 3 straight weeks so the latest possible start date would be May; however, the target would be April. Mary stated the students must be PA residents and Vickie mentioned that as long as they are employed with her company, it shouldn't matter. Mary also stated that the program is owned by the WIB on behalf of the Consortium. David stated that once the first group of students complete the course, then we can train our own instructors. Rich Muth questioned if there was any funding while the students were completing the class. There really wasn't any but employed students would have a different schedule.

Training Video Library

Vickie DeThomas went to their legal department and they advised us that we shouldn't copy any training videos. She suggested each company puts \$50 to purchase videos. In a couple years we can have ten videos. They can be housed at the AET Office, David has library software that can keep track of usage. We will revisit the topic next month.

Marketing Video

The marketing video has three purposes; showcase manufacturing, showcase education and training and showcase county/community. Alex, Kate and Jane are meeting immediately following this meeting to discuss the marketing video. Marie Dillon-Griffith and David English want involved. Vickie will also ask the companies to video within their company. Justin Nolder stated he did an asset sheet with pictures that could be of use to Alex, he will provide them to him.

Preferred Vendor's Page

Vickie had a meeting with Allegheny Graphics to set up a page on our website for Preferred Vendors. This will include their contact information, links to their websites and their logos. We currently had four preferred vendors but if anyone knows of one we should contact, let her know. Joe Goldcamp also created a flyer to be distributed in the Chamber of Commerce mailings. Vickie mentioned that Allegheny Graphics is now doing flyers. She also stated that they are working on a Government Page to include links to government officials.

IUP – SBI – Tri-County Meeting

Indiana is having the SBI research what is going on with other Consortia. They are hoping to get responses from Butler. Doug Bartosh stated that Armstrong Utilities came into Butler and did a presentation to use their services; they will also showcase different companies that belong to the Butler Consortium each week.

New Business

Battlebots

Pat Hollinger did a presentation on Battlebots. The competition is in an arena. Lenape won the competition on 2006. There will be 17 teams for 2007. If anyone would like to help with the event, contact Pat. The WIB donated \$2500 on behalf of the consortium. This year's competition will be held at Century three Mall on March 3rd. Karma Edwards mentioned that they needed volunteers that day and the event is very exciting.

The next meeting will be for March 1, 2007 at 7:30 am at the CareerLink Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 am.