

Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium

Minutes

4/6/06

The April 6th meeting of the Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium was brought to order by President Vickie DeThomas at 7:30 am.

Attendees:

Alex Stockmal – Mid Atlantic District Labs

Paul Bergad – Bergad Mattress

Joe Fullerton, Lenape Tech.

Bernie Marrese – Fuzion Tech. – Armstrong Precision Mfg.

Michael Livingston – Fuzion Tech. – Freeport Brick Div.

Jeff Fullerton – DRS & Infrared Tech.

Diane Dowling – Natures Blend

Paul Anselmo – New Century Careers

Don Myers – Lenape Tech.

Mary Salony – Tri-County WIB

Vickie DeThomas – OmniTech Partners

Joanne Petras – Fuzion Tech - Kittanning Brick Div.

David English – Armstrong Educational Trust

Patricia Hollinger – Penn State

Marisol DelOrbe - New Century Careers

Douglas Bartosh – Unimach Manufacturing

Prior meeting minutes were approved.

Resource Partner Update

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

Don Myers, Lenape – The ten hour OSHA class is now available and he will be the instructor. He also has limited internships available on a first come basis. If anyone has an interest, please contact him. **Joe Fullerton, Lenape** – He brought the Industrial Maintenance Certification Program information for distribution. He also has a potential plumber and OSHA instructor for the classes. If anyone has any special needs, contact him to make arrangements. Michael Livingston commented how positive the students at Fuzion Technologies responded to the classes from Lenape. **David English, AET**, all his information is on the agenda. **Marie Salony, WIB**, her information is also on the agenda. **Rich Muth, IUP** and **Nick Caruso, DPD** did not have current activity to report. **Pat Hollinger, Penn State** – mentioned that Penn State also has an OSHA instructor that they would be willing to share with the group. She mentioned the possibility of having a resource booklet where each company includes what they can offer the students. She offered to help if the group wanted to start a booklet. Pat also offered for the Penn State Recycling specialist to attend a meeting to help the group with their recycling needs. Also, she wanted to bring to our attention that on May 13th, there is a Battlebots competition at the Westmoreland Mall that she encourages everyone to attend.

Guest Speakers

Marisol DelOrbe and Paul Anselmo spoke to the group on New Century Careers. They are a non-profit organization that specializes on helping manufacturers find employees. They also run advanced skill programs. They distributed packets of information on the company history and the benefits of their services. New Century classes run 4 – 5 months for 35 hours per week. They have trained in 5 different counties. If a company takes a student from their classes; they will pay a \$1250 fee after the student completes the 90 day probationary period. The cost to train an individual is approximately \$8000. Pat Hollinger asked if they guaranteed placement; Paul answered no but they have a 75% placement rate but that was only due to lack of student interest in the position not due to skills. Mick Livingston questioned whether they did drug screening; the answer was no that it was up to the individual company. Paul and Marisol are available to provide any services the group may require. Please contact their office for more information.

CJT Grant

Jane Gardner replaced Robin Gorman. She has sent the CJT application to the state; anyone who needs to provide follow-up information for the grant should submit it to David English or Jane Gardner.

Tri-County Capacity Building Grant – Review

Work Readiness Certificate - Committee Update - There will be a meeting next week to prepare a budget. The committee will be looking at purchasing a program to train the trainers. This should be finalized within the next month. The other counties are getting their websites up and running.

Incumbent Training Matrix and Plan – Committee Update – There is one more topic to finalize the matrix and then it will be ready to send to the educational providers so they can put together a program; the matrix can then be sent to the state

Tri-County Incumbent Grant

The \$125,000 grant was received to do the three programs, HR Certificate, Lean Manufacturing Training and Management Certificate Program. They did not offer a deadline extension as of this date; June 30th is still the deadline. We are hopeful that an extension will still be offered. David stated that the information should be received by the end of the week. All three of the counties will get a change to send 5 people to the different classes and if they cannot then others can go. The Consortium members will get first choice so members are to make sure who they would like to attend.

Manufacturing Industry Coordinator

There has been a tri-county meeting on the Manufacturing Industry Coordinator; Mary Salony came up with an advertisement to send to all three County CareerLinks. Marie Dillon-Griffith will establish criteria on how to go through the resumes. It would be a benefit to have the Coordinator centrally located with the counties. The Tri-County Chairs will be involved in the hiring process; the second set of interviews will be held on April 12th.

New Business

Vickie DeThomas distributed a packet of information to all attendees that included information on government grants, New Century Careers and OVR information.

The Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium breakfast will be held on May 24th at 8:00 am at the Belmont Complex. The Armstrong County Commissioners will sponsor the breakfast.

The job fair at the Belmont Complex on March 26th was a success; it was stated that the CareerLink did a great job. There were 467 visitors and 25 booths. The Business Services Team is considering having the job fair twice a year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 am.

The next meeting will be held on May 4, 2006 at 7:30 am. The location for this meeting will be Caracal, Inc. in Ford City. All attendees will be sent directions.