

Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium

Minutes

4/12/07

The April 12 meeting of the Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium was brought to order by President Vickie DeThomas at 7:30 am.

Present:

Members

Clifford Ankney – Podinks, Inc.
Doug Bartosh – Unimach Manufacturing
Paul Bergad – Bergad Mattress
Jeff Fullerton - DRS
Andy Chomos – Caracal, Inc,
Vickie DeThomas - OmniTech Partners
Pat Huth – Penn State Electro-Optics
Joanne Petras – Fuzion Technologies
Mary Williams – 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
Marie Dillon-Griffith - CareerLink
Lori Harvey - WIB
Joe Fullerton - Lenape
Rich Muth – IUP - Northpointe
Justin Nolder – Dept. of Planning & Development

Special Guest

Tiffany Bennett – IT Consortium
Mike Burkett – IT Consortium
Jeff Ruhaak – Airtak
Steve Schultheis – IUP
Ben Pleunik - IUP

Minutes

Prior meeting minutes were approved with a motion from Doug Bartosh and seconded by Alex Stockmal.

Resource Partner Update

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

Jane Gardner, IUP - Jane requested members contact her regarding Wednet applications that will be due in April.

Lori Harvey - Tri-County WIB - The Reports are due for the In-kind Contributions. She would like everyone to keep in mind any new training they may be interested in for upcoming grant applications.

Marie Dillon-Griffith – CareerLink – The CareerLink Grand Opening last week went well. The Work Readiness Program with Eljer will soon begin. She is looking for additional funds. Marie notified the group she is assisting Sony with 900 employees that were laid off. She also wanted to thank the Consortium for taking an active role in the CareerLink move.

Rich Muth - Indiana University, Northpointe – They are recruiting for the graduate programs. It will be really good for corporate training. Contact Rich if you have any employees who are interested. There are flyers available for the program.

Joe Fullerton - Lenape Technical School - The classes for forklift & CNC training are still available. If anyone is interested, contact Joe with training needs.

Kate Curtis - SBDC – She mentioned the SBDC workshops. There are two that will be held in the near future, Providing Customer Service and Effective Sales Skills. If anyone is interested contact Kate for more information.

Karma Edwards - Manufacturing Assistance Center – The next 15-week program they have available will begin in July. She also stated the Workforce Forum was very informative particularly regarding the funding that is available for companies.

David English - AET – The Workforce Forum on March 15th exceeded expectations. The breakout groups gave ten pages of recommendations. Feedback was outstanding and the dialogue between students, teachers and guidance counselors was very productive. He thanked everyone for their participation. The groups were videotaped and he has the footage. There were 150 people at the event. The Planning Committee will meet on the 12th to review the summary and build a working plan. The summary will go out to participants and they can add and build strategies.

Justin Nolder - Department of Planning - The Armtech dates for this year will be August 15th - 17th. Anyone that needs information, please contact Justin. He will check with Nick to see if the group will get space this year.

Preferred Vendors

There is a letter prepared that will be emailed to all members so they can put it on their letterhead to distribute to their suppliers to ask for them if they would like to join our Preferred Vendors. We can also go after Suppliers that can give our employees price breaks. The letter will be emailed to all members so they can distribute them as needed.

Market Funds

It was approved to sponsor the Folk Festival in the amount of \$100 and also the Relay for Life in the amount of \$100. These payments will be reimbursed from the grant. It was also stated that we will purchase a sign for outside of the CareerLink building that reads "Home of the Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium"

May Meeting/Breakfast

The May Meeting will include a speaker from IUP on Lean Manufacturing. It will also include a breakfast and everyone is encouraged to bring a company as a guest. Invitations will be sent out and RSVP's will be requested.

IT Consortium

Tiffany Bennett and Mike Burkett were present to discuss the IT Consortium. They began their regular meetings late summer. They are interested in bringing in IT Professionals to the group. Everyone is encouraged to send their IT Professionals for membership. The group covers three counties, as does the Manufacturing Consortium. They would like to add the Manufacturing Consortiums IT needs to their website. They have three members working together to build their website. They are currently contacting educators to discuss their internship needs.

Business Partnership Group

They have a team of people that address the needs of the companies and locate resources to support the needs of the companies.

Market Video

The video is progressing, hopefully within two weeks it can be taken to the video companies. The companies will then be asked to allow the Consortium to come into their sites for videotaping segments of the video.

New Business

Training Needs – The group could possibly receive a grant for ISO Training. This funding would provide classes to train their employees. Joanne will send an email to determine interest in this training, Podinks, Bergad and Dielectric expressed need for this training. Lori stated that we need to have companies commit with how many people will actually want to attend the training this helps establish a better foundation when applying for the grant. She said we can take the class to the other Consortiums and ask if they are interested.

Strategic Plan - If anyone has any additional training requests, contact Vickie with the information. The State needs a Strategic 5 Year Plan. Vickie requested that everyone give this issue some thought; Lori will be the point person, please contact her for more information. The more information we give the state the more funding they will offer us.

Industrial Park – Ford City - Andy Chomos stated that Ford City is moving ahead on the improvements of the industrial park. If anyone knows of anyone looking for space, they should consider looking into it. He also mentioned that Caracal signed a contract with the Navy to sell commercially.

Video Library – Joanne asked if we were still interested in purchasing videos for the video library. It was suggested by Marie to use grant money for these videos. It could be possible to put them on our website and have the members use a password. We need to check with the company to determine if there are restrictions on having the information on the website for shared use.

Electro-Optics Camp - Rich Muth informed the group there was a summer camp for Electro-Optics that will be free for high school students. Please contact him if you have any interest.

Butler Expo - Doug Bartosh mentioned to the group that Armstrong Cable did videos for the Butler Expo and they did an impressive job.

Workshop - Alex Stockmal informed the group that there is a summer program at the University of California for female high school sophomores. It is a 5-day workshop that will run from July 29 - August 3. It is a technical awareness project.

Opportunity - Paul Bergad mentioned that he is in need of a company to design molds & machine them for his company. If anyone is interested, please contact him.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 am. The next meeting will be a breakfast meeting, no business will be conducted.