

**Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium
Members & Resource Partners Meeting
Minutes
May 1, 2008**

The May 1st meeting of the Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium was called to order by president Vickie DeThomas at 7:30 am. Jeff Fullerton, Vice President, facilitated the meeting. The meeting was held at the Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center.

Present

Members

Vickie DeThomas – OmniTech Partners
Chuck Slagle – CES Designs
Patrick Huth – Electro-Optics Center
Jeff Fullerton – DRS Technologies
Joanne Petras – Fuzion Technologies, Inc.
Alex Stockmal – Mid-Atlantic District Labs
Jim Pish - Dielectric Solutions
Brian DelVecchio – Electro-Optics Center
Cliff Ankney – Podinks, Inc.
Joe Goldcamp – Natures Blend

Resource Partners

Lori Harvey – TCWIB
David English – AET
Pat Hollinger – Penn State
Marie Dillon- Griffith – CareerLink
Justin Nolder - DPD
Rich Muth – IUP Northpointe
Phil Nadiak - TCWIB
Kate Curtis - SBDC

Minutes

Prior meeting minutes were approved without change upon a motion by Brian Delvecchio and seconded by Joe Goldcamp.

Resource Partners

Justin Nolder – DPD – Justin stated that the Armtech Showcase will be August 14th, 15th & 16th. The schedule will remain the same as last year. The registration forms have been mailed.

Phil Nadiak, TCWIB , Arcept Coordinator for the WIB stated there were two career days, Lenape and Apollo Ridge. Vickie Dethomas mentioned that the Apollo Ridge Career Day was a great experience.

Rich Muth - IUP - North Pointe - He had nothing pertaining to the group to report.

Patrick Huth - Electro-Optics - If anyone would like details on the Penn State & IUP Electro Optics camp for 11th & 12th graders, they should contact Pat. Pat also mentioned the the partners at CMU are willing to institute a robotics program. It was mentioned that a summer camp could be planned for this summer but in order to really be prepared and recruit the proper teachers & receive the proper involvement, next year would be better. Pat and Vickie will be having a meeting to discuss the program and all its details.

Pat Hollinger, Penn State stated they will have a Legos Camp at Penn State for 4th - 6th grade and an advanced session for 5th - 7th grade. The summer camp starts in June if ½ days for a week. She also stated that Penn State received three of the training programs, Flash, Strategic Planning and Project Management. Lori Harvey stated she will send out the dates of the programs for everyone involved. Lori also mentioned there is still room in all the classes, so if anyone is interested, please contact her. Pat also mentioned that the Alle-Kiski and Armstrong CareerLink are teaming up with PennState to do a Job Fair on October 1st.

Kate Curtis - SBDC - Kate mentioned that on April 30th, she had a meeting with local bankers and other funding sources to see what was available. The website newpa.com will detail all the state programs that are available and the interest rates are really low. As Kate mentioned the website, Brian Delvecchio stated it would be nice to see a consolidated list of websites that were available to assist the group. Pat Hollinger stated that maybe its something an intern could do for the group.

Marie Dillon- Griffith - Career Link - Marie restated the job fair to be held on October 1st. She also mentioned the Veterans event on August 8th at the Belmont. It was suggest to schedule the event closer to Armtech but Marie said that was as close as it could be due to the set-up. She stated that the Veterans are running this program and that no other group has tried to do such an event. She also had a welder's application if anyone was interested.

Lori Harvey, TCWIB, reviewed the Tuition Reimbursement Program that covered training from July, 2007 to June 30, 2008 paid out \$34,000 in shared training and \$72,532 in reimbursement to 10 companies pending approval. The Chairs will approve the applications and checks will go out to the companies. She also wanted companies to be thinking about what they wanted to look for in grants for next year. June 23rd is the Statewide Advanced Manufacturing meeting at Penn State.

David English - AET, stated the Workforce Forum was held on Friday, April 25th from 8:00am - 3:00pm at Lenape and it was a great session. There will also be a steering committee meeting on May 14th to receive the recommendations and take them into consideration.

Old Business

Marketing

Vickie has a meeting to discuss the Westmoreland County website, they are considering changing their name to attract more participants in the program.

The Video Project is completed and there will be Cable TV Sport on Comcast . It serves three purposes, too promote the interest of children in manufacturing, help parental understanding and help adult awareness.

There will also be three radio commercials on the Butler Radio Station. We will also have a half hour radio program once a month for twelve months.

Featured Presentation

Brian Delvecchio, Electro-Optics did a presentation on the Penn-State Electro-Optics Program. The currently have 400 members. Western PA has been involved in Electro-Optics for 140 years, His presentation included the effects on the community, what benefits they provide & how it has progressed over the years. If anyone would like more detailed information or to discuss what they have heard, please contact Brian.

New Member Recruitment

Jeff Fullerton, Vice President, asked the group why they thought other companies should join. Lori Harvey, stated training dollars over the last three years has been over \$300,000 so that is an incentive. Vickie has also tried to make sure the speakers that the members wanted to hear were present. We have had over 20 speakers but we need to know what people want. Cliff Ankney, voiced his opinion. He stated that he thinks that he doesn't get information back when it's requested. He is going to work with Marie & Lori on his employment & training needs. Vickie stated that she and David met with each individual company to determine their needs. They want to serve real needs but it takes everyone to join together & doing their part. Jeff asked everyone to think about what would create companies to want to join.

Jim Pish, Dielectric stated he would like to get the Armstrong County Manufacturing & Benefits information for the group to view.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 am. The next meeting is for members only and it will be held on June 5th at the AET Office.

