

Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium

Minutes

5/4/06

The May 4th meeting of the Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium was brought to order by President Vickie DeThomas at 7:30 am. The meeting was hosted by Caracal, Inc. located in Ford City.

Present:

Members

Douglas Bartosh - Unimach Manufacturing
Andrew Chomos - Caracal, Inc.
Vickie DeThomas - OmniTech Partners
Jeff Fullerton - DRS Infrared Tech.
Joe Goldcamp – Nature’s Blend
Bernie Marrese – Fuzion Tech. – Armstrong Precision Mfg.
Michael Livingston – Fuzion Tech. – Freeport Brick Div.
Joanne Petras – Fuzion Tech. – Kittanning Brick Div.
Chuck Slagle - CES Design
Alex Stockmal – Mid Atlantic District Labs

Guests

Scott Brennen - MSC
Mark Balentine - AstenJohnson

Resource Partners

Carl Bembem, Tri-County WIB
Nick Caruso - DPD
David English – Armstrong Educational Trust
Jane Gardner - IUP
Marie-Dillon Griffith – PA CareerLink
Don Myers – Lenape Tech.
Rich Muth – IUP, Northpointe
Pat Hollinger – Penn State
Mary Salony – Tri-County WIB

Prior meeting minutes were revised to include Douglas Bartosh, Unimach in attendance.

Resource Partner Update

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

Don Myers, Lenape – Lenape’s Open House will be held on May 4th; it was slightly restructured from last year to allow more involvement in different areas of the school. Information, on the event, was distributed to the group.

David English, AET - The Open House for the Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center will be held on May 13th.

Mary Salony, WIB - There has been a discussion of a Workforce Summit. Commissioner Kirkpatrick will investigate the needs and the costs associated with the summit. She will set up meetings to explore the problems and encourage the event.

Rich Muth, IUP - The Electro-Optics event went well; those in attendance said the speakers were great.

Nick Caruso, DPD – The Armtech Showcase will be on August 16, 17 & 18; the registration forms were already distributed. There will be room for the Consortium again this year.

Pat Hollinger, Penn State – May 13th is the Battlebots competition at the Westmoreland Mall; she encourages everyone to attend. It is a great experience. Weleski Record Storage information was distributed to the group.

Jane Gardner, IUP – The CJT Grant is progressing well; there is some information she needs from individual companies that she will discuss later. She also distributed Wednet Information for all members.

Marie Dillon-Griffith, CareerLink – They are still working through the building process; they are waiting on the final figures. The job fair was a success with 467 individuals attending the event. There were some companies that hired on the spot. They are looking to increase the event to accommodate more employers.

Manufacturing Industry Coordinator

The group welcomed the new Tri-County Manufacturing Coordinator, Mr. Carl Bembem. He will begin performing the tri-county tasks for the group.

Tri-County Capacity Building Grant – Review

Preemployment Work Certified Program - David English reviewed the program. There will be a pilot program with current member employees. The next step would to include the general public then it would move to all three counties. There will be \$2400 for each participant to sustain the program. We will then have to go after Federal and Foundation dollars. A name for the program has not yet been established. Mary Salony said we need to be looking ahead to next year’s training.

Capacity Building - Each county is performing their own events for Capacity Building. Butler County is having a Manufacturing Expo on May 7th, 8th and 9th from 10:00 AM to 9:00PM. Indiana County is having an after hours event. Armstrong County is having a membership breakfast on May 24th at 8:00 am. The Commissioners are sponsoring the event and the location will be held at the Belmont Complex. The CareerLink mailed 75 invitations. The breakfast will begin at 8:00 am and be served by Bonello's Catering. Vickie DeThomas will give a PowerPoint Presentation at 8:30 am. There will also be an open forum for discussion. All members and partners are urged to attend and bring guests. Marie Dillon-Griffith mentioned that the list of companies receiving invitations is confidential but if anyone would like a company added, contact her office. If anyone has any input, please contact Vickie or Marie. Joanne will send out an RSVP for the breakfast for the members and partners.

Incumbent Training Matrix and Plan – Committee Update –There is one more group meeting and the matrix should be ready to send to the resource partners for a curriculum. It should also be sent to all members for review.

Tri-County Incumbent Grant

The \$125,000 grant was received to do three programs; HR Certificate, Lean Manufacturing and Management Certificate. A deadline extension has not been offered, as of this date. The training will have to be started and invoiced by June 30th. We are hopeful that an extension will be offered in the future. All three of the counties will get a chance to send 5 people to the different classes. David English received the proposals and the committee rated the programs; three providers were decided. The HR Certification will be taught by Butler County Community College and will be 8 full days at 6 hours. The Management Certificate will be taught by Penn State and will be 10 days at 6 hours; the Lean Manufacturing will be instructed by Catalyst Connection and will be 228 hours of instruction. All members should consider who they would like to attend within their companies. We can match the funds by paying the employee's for attending the training. The course outlines will be sent to members and an estimated numbers of students from your company, as well as suggested scheduling should be returned to Joanne Petras as soon as possible. We have an extra \$18,000 which may allow us to run a smaller program. Joe Goldcamp questioned as to whether we could send more students to one class if the others did not reach capacity. It was suggested they might have to add more instructors but we could ask the instructors.

New Business

MSC Representative – Mr. Scott Brennen, Account Executive gave the group an overview of what MSC can commit to the members in both services and cost savings. MSC is a full line industrial supplier that has been in business for sixty years, specializing in both Metalworking and MRO supplies. They have over 500,000 name brand items available to ship daily. They offer Vendor Managed Inventory, manufacturing training, safety training and support from their suppliers. They can also offer a sampling of products along with a warranty for their items. Mr. Brennen distributed a pricing structure for the members. The members decided to take the information back to their companies for review and at June's meeting be prepared to vote on using MSC's pricing structure for the group. Mr. Brennen also raffled items from MSC to the members and partners.

Mary Salony mentioned there has been some discussion on an Information Technology Communication Consortium meeting on May 23rd. They want to join together to discuss their common resources and problems. Vickie DeThomas questioned how we could get all the County groups (Chamber of Commerce, Armstrong Educational Trust, Armstrong County Officials, and Community Foundation) together to communicate and proceed with the next step of solving problems. Please bring your thoughts to the next meeting.

The Consortium needs to apply for non-profit status. We are going to use the healthcare application and make the revisions necessary for our application.

The APMC minutes are now located on the website for review.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 am.

The next meeting will be held on June 1, 2006 at 7:30 am at the Armstrong Educational Trust Office. Meetings will continue throughout the summer months.

A tour a Caracal followed the meeting.