

Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium

Minutes

6/01/06

The June 1st meeting of the Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium was brought to order by President Vickie DeThomas at 7:30 am.

Present:

Members

Douglas Bartosh - Unimach Manufacturing
Vickie DeThomas - OmniTech Partners
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.
Denise Rosenberger – Dielectric Solutions
Chuck Slagle - CES Design
Alex Stockmal – Mid Atlantic District Labs

Resource Partners

Carl Bembem, Tri-County WIB
David English – Armstrong Educational Trust
Marie-Dillon Griffith – PA CareerLink
Joe Fullerton – Lenape Tech.
Amanda Riskosky – Career Track
Mary Salony – Tri-County WIB

Guest Speaker – Lisa Kay Schweyer – Commuter Info Program

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.

Joe Fullerton, Lenape - The Lenape Battlebots team won the recent competition. They were teamed with Oberg; they have hopes of teaming with the CareerLink at next year’s competition. Joe also wanted to thank all the companies that allowed Lenape to perform their training.

David English, AET – David’s material is on the agenda.

Amanda Riskosky, CareerTrack – They have funding available to do on the job training. They can possibly reimburse 50% of wages during the training period.

Mary Salony, WIB, - Mary’s material is on the agenda.

Carl Bembem – Carl’s material is also on the agenda

Marie Dillon-Griffith – They are still moving forward with the move. Marie met with the operators and everything is progressing fine. They are hopeful of meeting an August move date.

MSC Vote

The group voted to approve the MSC discount offer. MSC will now take all the members and put them into a database and when a member calls to place an order, they will get group pricing. Bernie Marrese stated that members need to honor our end of the bargain and give MSC our business. We will have to continue to give MSC updates on our membership.

Tri-County Capacity Building Grant – Review

Breakfast Update – Vickie DeThomas thanked David English, Marie Dillon-Griffith and Carl Bembem for all the efforts they made to make the Consortium membership breakfast a success. She also asked the group if they had any input on the breakfast. The companies that attended showed interest in membership. Dielectric Solutions became a new member and EOC-Penn State will also be participating in membership.

Preemployment Work Certified Program – Vickie DeThomas had a meeting with Fred Fornataro and they prepared a budget for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th stages of the program. They are now looking at the pilot programs and different ways to sustain the program. The WIB is very excited about the program. Fred will be getting all three County Chairs together along with Healthcare, and CareerLink Managers to get this program running. The first stage of this program will be ran in Armstrong County for 18 people. The class space will be divided equally among all counties. If there are spots available then it will be opened to anyone who is interested.

Incumbent Training Matrix and Plan - The Incumbent Worker Training Matrix is complete; it now satisfies the grant requirements. It will be sent to all members for feedback. We need to obtain grant money to have this written.

Tri-County Incumbent Grant

The \$125,000 grant was received to do three programs; HR Certificate, Lean Manufacturing and Management Certificate. All three classes are scheduled except the Lean Manufacturing. Catalyst Connection gave a beginning date of June 13th and June 20th; those are the only two dates on the schedule. The schedule will be determined after the class starts. They are trying to accommodate all students schedules. Vickie DeThomas will be meeting with Carl Bemben to review the class schedules. The classes will begin next week. The Armstrong Consortium has 4 enrolled in H/R, 6 in Management and 6 in Lean Manufacturing.

David English stated there is \$18,000 available to add another class or add to the H/R, Management of Lean Class. Joe Goldcamp questioned if it was possible to set up a program and have an Educational Provider go to a company's site and educate them on lean manufacturing. Carl Bemben and Mary Salony will take a look at that option. Doug Bartosh questioned if the group should vote to use the funds before the deadline passed. Joe Goldcamp has a department of 25 students that would be interested in this training if it is available. Mary Salony stated that we may have questions due to the fact that it may appear as consulting not training. Also, the funds are for tri-county use.

New Business

Funds Available - Carl Bemben stated there are funds available through the Tri-County Event Grant. If anyone has any suggestions for use, please contact him. He said the money could be used for banners or posters. Joe Goldcamp stated that we could possibly do a mailing or advertisements in the paper. Mick Livingston suggested bringing in a speaker that other companies would be interested in. He also suggested doing something at Armtech. Marie Dillon-Griffith stated we must remember that the funds are for tri-county use. David English said that the Consortium could use the AET Booth, as they did last year. Nick Caruso is the person that needs to be contacted regarding the Armtech event. Vickie DeThomas gave an overview of Armtech; the deadline for registration is July 1st; the cost is \$300 for companies within the district and \$850 for outside the district. Carl stated that the extra funds can be used if all three counties are involved. Mick Livingston stated that other counties are welcome to attend Armtech. Carl will ask the other counties if they are interested. It was discussed whether there should be a combined Armtech Booth or continue to have a booth just for Armstrong Manufacturing Consortium.

CJT Grant - Vickie DeThomas informed the group that Jane Gardner has submitted the CJT Grant to the state.

CommuterInfo Program- Lisa Kay Schweyer gave the group a presentation on the Commuter Program her company has to offer. Her company helps people find alternative rides to work and school. They cover ten counties; there has to be one point in the commute that is located within the ten counties. They have a database that matches commuters based on their individual requirements. They also provide emergency ride home services and parking discounts. The website for the company is www.commuterinfo.org. If anyone is interested in commuter services for their company, they should contact Lisa.

Vickie DeThomas is working on an ISO Certification Program or possibly a Marketing Class. There are three companies of those attending who would like to participate in an ISO Class.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 am.

The next meeting will be held on July 6, 2006 at 7:30 am at the Nature's Blend Office in Ford City. The directions will be sent to the group.