

Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium
Minutes
8/2/07

The August 2, 2007 meeting of the Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium was brought to order by president Vickie DeThomas at 7:30 am.

Present:

Members

Randy Bowser - Alkab
Jim Pish – Dielectric Solutions
Vickie DeThomas - OmniTech Partners
Joe Goldcamp – Nature’s Blend Wood Products
Patrick Huth – Penn State Electro-Optics
Joanne Petras – Fuzion Technologies
Cliff Ankney - Podinks
Chuck Slagle - CES Design
Alex Stockmal – Mid Atlantic District Labs
Doug Bartosh – Unimach Manufacturing

Resource Partners

Kate Curtis – Clarion University – SBDC
Karma Edward – Manufacturing Assistance Center
David English – Armstrong Educational Trust
Lori Harvey – WIB
Tracey Mission – Indiana University of PA
Rich Muth – IUP - Northpointe
Mary Salony - WIB
Jane Gardner - Indiana University of PA

Minutes

Prior meeting minutes were approved with a motion from Joe Goldcamp and seconded by Doug Bartosh.

Vickie informed the group that we have a new member Alkab.

Resource Partner Update

Kate Curtis - SBDC - There was a budget cut of \$624,000; meetings & conferences were cut. They can still deliver service because they receive federal funding.

Mary Salony – WIB – Mary introduced Jessie Inzo she is the Regional Educational Partnership Coordinator. She will work with the group. She works with the businesses and schools to promote education. Mary also mentioned that September 1st the next set of grants would be coming up.

Karma Edwards - Manufacturing Assistance Center – Karma informed the group that the new set of classes will begin on September 4th.

Jane Gardner – IUP – Jane thanked the group for their support. There was \$22.5 million dollars in Wednet available. There was not any CJT money but she stated there are ways to work around it. She got more funding than required. She also mentioned that Caracal did have some training.

Rich Muth – IUP, Northpointe – They have delayed the Master’s Program in Education Technology. It will start again in Jan-08. They hopefully will get more students.

Patrick Huth – Penn State Electro-Optics – The Electro-Optics Summer Camp for Children had 27 kids, half from Armstrong County, half from other counties from grades 10, 11 & 12. They may possibly run 2 weeks next year. Vickie stated that the turnout was great, that we need to reach the parents.

David English - AET – David informed the group that they were able to replace the computers in the lab after 5 years. Vickie requested a check in the amount of \$250 to cover supplies for the meetings. Doug Bartosh made the motion and Joe Goldcamp seconded it.

Updates

Job Fair - There will be a job fair in mid-October. We are in need of volunteers to coordinate the function due to the staff shortage. It will be held at the CareerLink. If anyone is interested, please let Marie know.

Workforce Forum – There will be a meeting next Thursday to review the recommendations from the breakout session. The meeting will consist of educator and students to include visits and job shadowing, and then they will report back to the steering committee. They would like to start some time this fall.

Video Projects

There is funding available for the WIBs to do a CareerGate CD on one industry cluster, which will be focused on young people, and manufacturing was chosen. Each county chose one company for the CD project. The companies that were chosen were Dielectric, Penn United and Gorrell Industries

The ACMC video project will be held in Armstrong County. The first meeting was held and the concept is Gold Collar. Most people don't know what goes into manufacturing; the estimated completion date is Jan-08. The project is three tiers, Community, Opportunity and Pathway.

CJT Funding

Jane Gardner stated that the CJT money needs to be spent. Joe Goldcamp stated that there were only two companies, Alkab and Nature's Blend interested in the Lean Manufacturing Training. Jane told Joe to go ahead with it. Jane also mentioned that there was \$220,000 that needs spent; everyone needs to consider what training they may want to do.

Tri-County Meeting w/Chairs

There was a meeting among the Tri-County chairs regarding the upcoming projects. The three counties will have surveys on line. They need feedback from the companies so they may be calling to get information. They reviewed the year-end reports and were impressed by what the counties are doing. Mary stated that the supplemental material was great and the member input was wonderful. They may place it in a binder so all the companies can view it. There also is a tri-county national advertising campaign called "Dream it Do it". It is aimed to bring national slogans to a local level

New Business

Armtech will be held on August 16th & 17th. Vickie is circulating a paper for volunteers. On Thursday it will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 and Friday it will be held from 10:00 – 4:00 pm. They will be using our new display; David and Lori will be setting it up on Thursday afternoon.

Allegheny Graphics is redesigning the brochures and will have them ready for Armtech.

We will have guest speakers throughout the year; September it will be Rich Palilla from the DPD, October will include the Challenge Program and November will be Ken Berlin from Enterprise Rental. If anyone has other speakers they are interested in hearing, let Vickie Know.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 am. The next meeting will be held in September 6th at 7:30 am.