

Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium
Minutes
9/6/07

The September 6, 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
Bill Ellwell – Alpha Carb Enterprises
Alex Stockmal – Mid-Atlantic District Labs
Doug Bartosh – Unimach Manufacturing
Jay Ripple – Fuzion Technologies
Jeff Fullerton – DRS
Terry Dietz – Air/Tak
Bill Ellwell – Alpha Carb Enterprises

Resource Partners

Kate Curtis – Clarion University – SBDC
Pat Hollinger – Penn State
David English – Armstrong Educational Trust
Lori Harvey – WIB
Joe Fullerton - Lenape
Rich Muth – IUP - Northpointe
Mary Salony - WIB
Justin Nolder - DPD
Marie Dillon-Griffith – CareerLink

Guest

Commissioner Kirkpatrick
Rich Palilla - DPD

Minutes

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

Resource Partner Update

David English, AET - The Work Certified Program is up and running. They are finishing their second week. There are six students in the class and they are doing great. The class finishes September 17.

Pat Hollinger, Penn State - The Wednet applications are keeping them busy. They are helping companies complete the form and apply for funds. They are also offering classes at the AET this fall. They have a Certificate in Management Program. She distributed the non-credit schedule to the group.

Kate Curtis, Clarion SBDC - She distributed SBDC pamphlets. There are not any workshops in Armstrong County this year. The last two were cancelled due to lack of interest.

Joe Fullerton, Lenape - The Lenape Adult Education Classes started on Tuesday. The Forklift Certification class still has openings. He is currently marketing to students. If anyone has any special needs, please contact him.

Rich Muth, IUP Northpointe - Industry Day at the campus will be in November. He will be distributing information. The masters program for the fall had low interest so it was cancelled.

Marie Dillon-Griffith, CareerLink - The new website has some problems but they are working on them. If anyone has any specific website needs, contact her. The system has enhanced features that they don't even know about yet. It will take some time to get it all the problems worked out. The CareerLink would like to have a reverse job fair for the Work-Certified students. They are working on resumes. If anyone is interested in meeting with the students, she will provide the details at a later date. If anyone can assist Lenape doing mock interviews, see Marie for the details of what is needed.

The job fair is October 25th from 11-5. She circulated a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help.

Lori Harvey, WIB - The forms were submitted for the \$150,000 IP General Grant.

A brochure is being put together to explain to companies what Work Certified is all about. Marie stated that some companies have on their applications, work certified preferred. She requested everyone look to see

if their WedNet money was used. Lori also mentioned that the In-Kinds need to be completed by the 15th of every month. Also she stated that Butler's Billboard Campaign increased their website hits by 28%.

Justin Nolder, DPD - Armtech was held on August 15 - 17; the golf outing had 80 golfers. There were 79 exhibitors with 94 booths. There we 18 new exhibitors this year. The pre-event seminars included 80 - 100 people. They were not advertised to the general public. The public showcase was great; the networking was better than the prior year. There were anywhere between 500 -1000 visitors.

Guest Speaker

The guest speaker was Mr. Rich Palilla from the Department of Planning & Economic Development. They currently have 13 staff members and 3 vacancies. He informed the group of all the duties of his office. They include County Planning, Economic Development, Housing and Community Development. They also provide a number of administrative services for different organizations. He also informed the group of the Business Calling Program. They make 75 site visit's a year. The companies are visited by Nick Caruso and Justin Nolder. The companies for the visits are selected by major employer status and new industries. If needs are identified then a Customer Action Plan is made and the needs are sent to the partners. He also mentioned that his office spends \$12 - \$15000 annually on marketing. His office also handles prospect development, once a lead is determined, and then they move on it to determine what would be inviting to the company to draw them into Armstrong County. He also discussed the Industrial Parks owned by the counties and what the next step is for Northpointe. The next phase will begin in approximately 18 months. The retail portion of the development is slow due to the low number of employees there. Commissioner Kirkpatrick mentioned the fact that they are constantly fighting a battle with school taxes and the benefit of living in another county due to the high range in Armstrong County.

Armtech

Vickie wanted to thank everyone for all the help with Armtech. Lori and David did a great job.

Consortium Chair & WIB Meeting

There will be a quarterly meeting to discuss issues in our area. It will be beneficial to have representatives from the state present. The meeting with the Tri-County Chairs will happen once a quarter also. They will do strategic planning for the next 3 years.

December Meeting

December's meeting will be MEMBER'S ONLY.

New Business

David and Vickie will be arranging their new "On the Road with Vickie and David" to visit the companies and see what their needs are. They will be contacting everyone with details.

A video library was discussed again. Jay Ripple, Fuzion Technologies, will be reviewing the subject and determining what is needed to move forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 am. The next meeting will be October 4th at 7:30 am.