

Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium

Minutes

10/05/06

The October 5th meeting of the Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium was brought to order by President Vickie DeThomas at 7:30 am. The meeting was hosted by IUP, Northpointe.

Present:

Members

Doug Bartosh – Unimach Manufacturing
Vickie DeThomas - OmniTech Partners
Diane Dowling – Nature's Blend Wood Products
Jeff Fullerton – DRS Infrared Solutions
Bill Kabazie – Alkab Contract Mfg.
Joanne Petras – Fuzion Technologies
Mick Livingston – Fuzion Technologies
Jay Ripple – Fuzion Technologies
Denise Rosenberger – Dielectric Solutions
Chuck Slagle - CES Design
Alex Stockmal – Mid Atlantic District Labs

Special Guests

James Ankney – Podinks, Inc.
Dean Myers – Myers Vacuum Repair Svcs. Inc.
Gary Zacherl - Sabeus

Resource Partners

Carl Bembem, Tri-County WIB
Kate Curtis – Clarion University – SBDC
David English – Armstrong Educational Trust
Jane Gardner – Indiana University of PA
Marie Dillon-Griffith - CareerLink
Rich Muth – Indiana University of PA - Northpointe

Guest Speakers

Dr. John Engler – IUP OSHA Consultation
and KOSH Center

Minutes

Prior meeting minutes were approved with a motion from Doug Bartosh and seconded by Mick Livingston.

Resource Partner Update

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

Marie Dillon-Griffith – CareerLink - All news pertaining to the building project remains the same. The lawyers are reviewing all the issues. Vickie DeThomas reviewed the building project for those visiting. Marie informed the group that they are still dealing with the issues at Eljer.

Kate Curtis – SBDC – Kate advised the group of new programs. They include **All about the Money, Tourism Branding and Protecting Yourself against Fraud**. If anyone has any interest or has questions, please contact Kate.

Jane Gardner – IUP – Jane advised the group that Wednet funds are gone but she will keep members advised of new funds. She also advised the group that the Small Business Institute is working on a project on Consortia; they want to determine what is working for other Consortia across the United States and Canada. They want to meet with members to do a survey. Jane will be the contact person. Mick Livingston suggested we do a focus group and allow the participants to come question the members. Vickie DeThomas stated that they did a project for the WIB and did a wonderful job. They provided valuable resources and recommendations.

Carl Bembem – Carl advised the group that the Penn State Management Program was covered in the Leader Times. Vickie thanked Denise for allowing the Leader Times to come to Dielectric to cover the article. Carl advised that the three programs had 36 students in the classes. He also advised the group there has been no word yet on the next round of grants. He mentioned that Jim Ferguson contacted him to do an Outreach for Eljer employees. Marie advised Carl that this would have to be a company decision that would have to go through the CareerLink.

Rich Muth – IUP - The Industrial & Labor Relations Studies will begin in January if anyone has students that are interested. There will be a meeting on October 5th at 6:00 pm to review the program.

Updates Vickie DeThomas

Workforce Forum - Commissioner Kirkpatrick wants to have a small group of WIB members to create a Workforce Forum. She would like to bring Education, Business and Government to the table. This will be a pilot program in Armstrong County and then opened to the other counties. This will be a continuing process to solve problems. It will then be opened up to the other Counties. The WIB will give \$10,000, the school district will give \$5000 and the County will give \$5000. Vickie suggested that maybe the companies could donate \$100 each.

Marketing Ideas – David English is bringing in someone to look at the marketing video.

Chamber Luncheon - The Chamber of Commerce Luncheons are monthly at Lenape Country Club. October's luncheon is the 20th and Congressman Phil English will be the speaker. Joanne will send the announcement to all members. Vickie stated that if anyone wants to attend these luncheons for the Consortium, please let her know.

New Business

Marie Dillon- Griffith informed the group that Battlebots are being highlight across the state. They will show a video and speak on the importance of involvement with the project. It is a great marketing tool. She encourages stronger involvement. Lenape won the competition last year. Vickie DeThomas stated that we requested a \$100,000 grant to do things such as this. She suggested possibly a tri-county sponsorship.

Guest Speaker – Dr. John Engler from the IUP Safety OSHA Consultation Program and Kosh Center spoke to the group. He distributed safety information and informed the group of the services they can provide. They are 90% federally funded and 10% state funded. The Program began in 1983. They have a 12 month agreement with OSHA to provide services to small businesses. They are staffed with 8 consultants and 7 hygienists with many years of experience. They can do on-site visits and help employers identify hazards. They can provide full services or limited services based on the company's needs. They also have other services including Correction Assistance, Education and Training, Comprehensive Program Development Assistances. The services are confidential. If anyone is interested you can obtain more information at www.hhs.iup.edu/sa/OSHA or contact Dr. Engler at jme@iup.edu. Information on the KOSH Center can be obtained at koshcenter.org; this will provide a list of course descriptions and instructors/

The next meeting will be for **members only** on November 2, 2006 at 7:30 am at the Armstrong Educational Trust.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 am. A tour of IUP Northpointe followed the meeting.