

Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium

Minutes

12/7/06

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

Present:

Members

Cliff Ankney – Podinks, Inc
Doug Bartosh – Unimach Manufacturing
Brian Delvecchio – Penn State Electro-Optics
Vickie DeThomas - OmniTech Partners
Jeff Fullerton – DRS Technologies
Joe Goldcamp – Nature's Blend Wood Products
Mick Livingston – Fuzion Technologies
Dean Myers – Myers Vacuum Repair Svcs. Inc (guest)
Joanne Petras – Fuzion Technologies
Denise Rosenberger – Dielectric Solutions
Aaron Sheasley – Fuzion Technologies - APM
Chuck Slagle - CES Design
Alex Stockmal – Mid Atlantic District Labs

Resource Partners

Rob Beatty – Manufacturing Assistance Center
Kate Curtis – Clarion University – SBDC
Marie Dillon-Griffith - CareerLink
Karma Edward – Manufacturing Assistance Center
David English – Armstrong Educational Trust
Joe Fullerton – Lenape Technical School
Jane Gardner – Indiana University of PA
Pat Hollinger – Penn State University
Mary Salony - WIB
Mea Scholl – Integrated Quality Systems

Minutes

Prior meeting minutes were approved with a motion from Doug Bartosh and seconded by Alex Stockmal.

Revised Charter

Vickie DeThomas circulated the revised Charter from the member's meeting in November. All members signed the Charter and received copies.

Speaker for 2007

Vickie requested that all resource partners bring ideas to the group for speakers in 2007.

Website Changes

The website will be revised to include a Vendor Page for our preferred vendors. It will include the names and information for the companies. If anyone has any vendors we should consider approaching for a discount, please let the group know. A page will also be created to include news from the members. It will include any information on what is happening at the individual companies. The website will also be revised to include a link to Harrisburg to allow the group to locate information on current legislative issues.

Lean Manufacturing Class

David English informed the group of the H/R, Management and Lean classes that were taken under the Tri-County Incumbent Worker Grant. The H/R Class had 9 students and the Management Class had 16 students. The Lean Class will resume again in January. If anyone has employees that would like to take the class, the introduction class will be offered again on Wednesday, December 13th. All students must take the introduction class to continue with the series. Mary Salony questioned if this introduction was included in the original contract. Dave informed there would be no change in the contract.

Resource Partner Update

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

Pat Hollinger – Penn State – They are busy at Penn State working on the Plastic Initiative. They have helped Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties and she questioned if there was anything that could be done for Armstrong County.

Mary Salony – WIB – Mary informed the group that the WIB has a \$64,400 grant for plastic however; there has been no progress with the issue as of this date. She also stated that she advertised for an Industry Partnership Coordinator this week. The counties will have one coordinator and that person will work with the IT/Healthcare and Manufacturing Consortia.

Rob Beatty – MAC – The Manufacturing Assistance Center has been in existence for 12 years. They can offer many services to the members. They teach many classes including Cad, CNC and also offer a 15 week program for displaced workers that will turn the students into entry level machinists. If anyone has any interest, contact Rob or Karma.

Marie Dillon-Griffith – CareerLink – The CareerLink must be moved into their new space by January 4th or 5th. Construction is happening rapidly. The move has consumed much of their time. She wanted the group to know that it would have never happened without their support. There has been a Business Service Forum called by Sandy Veto to address the needs of the businesses.

Kate Curtis – SBDC – Kate informed the group of the First Step Workshop that will be held on December 12th. It is a class that helps with small business start-ups.

Jane Gardner – IUP – Jane advised the group that had to start their search for Outreach Specialist over again. They are getting ready to run the ad so the position is currently vacant. They are hopeful they will receive good candidates.

Joe Fullerton - Lenape Technical School – Joe informed the group that there have been many requests for a welding certification. If anyone has any interest, see Joe. He also has an OSHA program that he offers to companies or he can customize training for individual company's needs.

Work Certification Program

David English reviewed the Work Certification Program with the group. The WIB purchased the Florida curriculum. They are making arrangements to train the instructors in January 22-26 at the Trust. They are also looking for new funds to sustain the program. The program could possibly begin in the spring of 2007. Mary Salony informed the group that this program has to be a company supported program. The members need to remember that after completion of the program, the students will need somewhere to go. David said he would send out the curriculum to the new members. Mick Livingston suggested that we contact the InStep Partners to determine if they would be interested in bringing their membership to the group. Mick will get the InStep list.

IUP - SBI

The Tri-County Manufacturing Consortia Survey has been completed and the results will be presented by the students on Monday morning at IUP. Vickie, David and Marie will attend and bring the findings back to the group.

Training Matrix

David English distributed copies of the Incumbent Training Matrix. He is now ready to send the formal RFP to the resource partners. The money has already been received to write the curriculum. Marie Dillon-Griffith mentioned that MI & WI have a great success rate with their Consortia. They have a 98% success rate.

Marketing Video

Vickie DeThomas reviewed the Marketing Video Project with the group. She stated the first module of the video will try to erase the negativity associated with jobs in manufacturing. The second module consists of what the educational providers can provide and the third will showcase Planning and Development. Marie suggested at the next meeting the group could view what the Healthcare has put together. Alex Stockmal will lead the project and Kate Curtis volunteered to assist him.

Workforce Forum

David English discussed the Workforce Forum that will be held on March 16, 2007 at Lenape Technical School. The Forum will be an on-going discussion on County Workforce Development. Sandy Veto will be the keynote speaker. Everyone in the group will be invited to the Forum. All the members will be getting a survey for feedback. They will soon be asking for financial support from members. Funds have already been committed by the county, school district, WIB and Lenape Technical School. Dave stated that \$20,000 has already been committed to the project.

Internship and Training Needs

Vickie DeThomas informed the group that they need to be considering their training needs. Joanne will send out an email for requests for training and also company needs on internships. Mary Salony suggested it may be time for companies to have a needs assessment. Vickie stated her company has hired interns, in the past, after they have graduated and completed their internship. Joe Goldcamp said he would like to interview the interns.

Video Library

All members will review their material to determine what they have that the group could include in their video library. We have information from JJ Kellar on videos. We will see what the group can copy and then move on the subject from that point.

New Business

The next meeting will be for January 4, 2007 at 7:30 am at the Armstrong Educational Trust and will include a tour of the CareerLink

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 am.