

Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium

Minutes

1/4/07

The January 4th meeting of the Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium was brought to order by President Vickie DeThomas at 7:30 am.

Present:

Members

Paul Bergad – Bergad Mattress
Andy Chomos – Caracal, Inc,
Brian Delvecchio – Penn State Electro-Optics
Vickie DeThomas - OmniTech Partners
Joe Goldcamp – Nature's Blend Wood Products
Mick Livingston – Fuzion Technologies
Joanne Petras – Fuzion Technologies
Denise Rosenberger – Dielectric Solutions
Chuck Slagle - CES Design
Alex Stockmal – Mid Atlantic District Labs

Resource Partners

Rob Beatty – Manufacturing Assistance Center
Kate Curtis – Clarion University – SBDC
Karma Edward – Manufacturing Assistance Center
David English – Armstrong Educational Trust
Jane Gardner – Indiana University of PA
Pat Hollinger – Penn State University
Don Myers - Lenape
Justin Nolder – Dept. of Planning & Development
Mary Salony - WIB
Mea Scholl – Integrated Quality Systems

Minutes

Prior meeting minutes were approved with a motion from Alex Stockmal and seconded by Denise Rosenberger.

Resource Partner Update

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

Justin Nolder will be the new representative for the Department of Planning and Development.

Pat Hollinger – Penn State – Pat informed the group that the Project Manager will meet with Mary Salony next Thursday to determine how the survey was designed for the plastic initiative.

Mary Salony – WIB – The Industry Partnership Coordinator position now has 50 resumes. She is working with the three counties to make the decision. The counties will have one coordinator and that person will work with the IT/Healthcare and Manufacturing Consortia. Mary mentioned that manufacturing would be the Coordinator's first project. She also mentioned the RFP's are in for the Basic Skills Curriculum, they will be sent out shortly. Training for the initial group of the Work Certified Curriculum instructors is being held on the week of January 22, 2007. The final list of those being trained is still being set. A total of 7 instructors will be trained. Pat Hollinger questioned if the resource partners would be able to attend the training; David stated that if there was a time available, Mary will let them know.

Rob Beatty – MAC – Rob indicated that the MAC Center will be graduating 5 students on January 19th that will need placement. They will also have a new group available in 15 weeks. If anyone is interested contact Rob.

Kate Curtis – SBDC – Kate informed the group of the First Step Workshop that is offered through the Small Business Development Center. It is a class that helps with small business start-ups. She also distributed information for anyone that is interested.

Jane Gardner – IUP – Jane advised the group that there is a professional internship program available through the Eberly College. They also have safety science interns available; she distributed brochures. Jane mentioned that February is WedNet reallocation time. This allows her to use the funds for other companies; if anyone is interested, please contact her. The Assistant Director Position now has 40 applicants.

Don Myers- Lenape Technical School – The Co-op program has started earlier this year. If anyone has any interest, they may call Don for more information.

Speakers for 2007

There will be a guest speaker in March from IUP. The topic of the presentation will be lean manufacturing. Vickie DeThomas will be contacting the IT Consortium to give a presentation and also the PA Ombudsman. Vickie requested the resource partners keep supplying information on speakers for the meetings.

Workforce Forum

David English will be sending out surveys the will need completed by the members pertaining to their training and hiring practices. It should only take a few minutes to complete. He also reviewed the details on the forum. There are many people involved in making this event a success. It will be held on March 16th at Lenape Technical School and everyone within the group will be invited. David also mentioned that today was moving day for the CareerLink. Vickie asked the group to approve spending \$100 to purchase lunch for the people moving the offices. It was approved to give Marie Dillon-Griffith the check.

Internship

We need more information on the interns that the group may need. We need to set up interviews. Jane Gardner mentioned that IUP also has professional internships that do not require the students to be paid. We need to gather all our information because it is easier getting students when the companies have more than one position.

Training Video Library

All members will review their material to determine what they have that the group could include in their video library. Mick Livingston did not recommend copying any information. He volunteered an employee at Fuzion Technologies to research videos and determine what he would recommend for the group. Paul Bergad stated that we can make a copy of material for backup purposes only. Vickie DeThomas suggested that we build up our bank account and then purchase the videos that we would like to have for group use.

Marketing Video

Alex Stockmal and Kate Curtis met on December 11th regarding their ideas for the marketing video. Jane Gardner volunteered to assist them on this project. The next step is for people to contact Alex with ideas for the video. Vickie DeThomas stated that the Healthcare Consortium has a great video that can be viewed at the next meeting. Pat Hollinger stated she will bring the Battlebots CD because it also promotes manufacturing. Mea Scholl suggested a questionnaire be sent to manufacturers to determine who would allow their site to be on the video. Alex, with his previous instep experience, does not think this will be an issue.

IUP – SBI – Tri-County Meeting

The project they did on State and Canadian Consortia was presented to the three county chairs, along with David English, Marie Dillon-Griffith and Jane Gardner. They did get some information; however, there was little participation in Indiana County and no participation at all in Butler County. Mike Rempl asked that they do the study on the state of Michigan. David mentioned that it appears we are following good practices.

Preferred Vendor's Page

Vickie had a meeting with Allegheny Graphics to set up a page on our website for preferred vendors. This will include their contact information, links to their websites and their logos. We currently had three preferred vendors but if anyone knows of one we should contact, let her know. She also stated that we would like to put an insert in the Chamber of Commerce mailings.

New Business

Vickie and Denise Rosenberger both use the services of JJ Kellar. They contacted them to get each of the members H/R Management Guides. Denise stated that she uses it often and it is very helpful. They also have OSHA and Safety guides. Vickie stated that we ordered Lean Manufacturing books for each member and they will be distributed later.

Kate Curtis mentioned that Armstrong County Awareness day is Monday, January 8th.

Vickie stated that if anyone is having training that might benefit another member, they should invite other to attend.

The next meeting will be for February 1, 2007 at 7:30 am at the CareerLink Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 am.