

## Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium

### Minutes

3/1/07

The March 1st meeting of the Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium was brought to order by President Vickie DeThomas at 7:30 am.

#### Present:

##### Members

Doug Bartosh – Unimach Manufacturing  
Andy Chomos – Caracal, Inc,  
Brian Delvecchio – Penn State Electro-Optics  
Vickie DeThomas - OmniTech Partners  
Jeff Fullerton - DRS  
Joe Goldcamp – Nature's Blend Wood Products  
Bill Kabazie – Alkab  
Mick Livingston – Fuzion Technologies  
Joanne Petras – Fuzion Technologies  
Mary Williams – Dielectric Solutions  
Chuck Slagle - CES Design  
Alex Stockmal – Mid Atlantic District Labs

##### Resource Partners

Kate Curtis – Clarion University – SBDC  
Karma Edward – Manufacturing Assistance Center  
David English – Armstrong Educational Trust  
Jane Gardner – Indiana University of PA  
Lori Harvey - WIB  
Pat Hollinger – Penn State University  
Pat Huth – Penn State Electro-Optics  
Tracey Missien - IUP  
Rich Muth – IUP - Northpointe  
Justin Nolder – Dept. of Planning & Development  
Mea Scholl – Integrated Quality Systems

##### Special Guest

Commissioner Patricia Kirkpatrick  
Gary Zacherl - Sabeus

#### Minutes

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

#### Resource Partner Update

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

**Jane Gardner, IUP** - Jane introduced Tracey Missien, she will be the Armstrong County Representative for Indiana University assigned to help with the training needs. She has twenty years of experience in Business Development and Marketing. Jane also requested members contact her regarding Wednet applications that will be due in April.

**Mea Scholl - Integrated Quality Designs** - Her company is still doing ISO and Management in New York State. They still do not have any news on the security risk grants.

**Pat Hollinger - Penn State - New Kensington** - They are busy at Penn State with WedNet and the Plastic Grants. She also notified the group that the Battlebot competition will be at Century Three Mall on Saturday.

**Lori Harvey - Tri-County WIB** - The Reports are due for the In-kind Contributions. She will also distribute a schedule for classes at Butler County Community College

**Joe Fullerton - Lenape Technical School** - The classes for forklift & CNC Training are still available. If anyone is interested, contact Joe with their training needs. He is doing the schedule for the fall.

**Rich Muth - Indiana University, Northpointe** - They will have classes this Summer on the Internet. He will have brochures next month.

**Kate Curtis - SBDC** - She is very excited about the outreach sites in Armstrong County. They will be the at the Department of Planning & Development and the Parks Bend Barn.

**Karma Edwards - Manufacturing Assistance Center** - She has a Freeport area person that graduated in CNC that needs a job. If anyone is interested, please contact her. The next class will start in July.

**David English - AET** - The Work Certified Program pilot dates are set for mid-April, it will focus on the Eljer displaced workers. In mid-May, recommendations will be taken for students. He is not sure of the exact time yet.

**Justin Nolder - Department of Planning** - The Armtech dates for this year will be August 15th - 17th. Anyone that needs information, please contact Justin. He also informed the group that Nick contacted Catalyst Connection regarding the summer internship program and if anyone has any questions, they should contact Nick.

### **Speakers for 2007**

There will be a guest speaker in May from IUP. The topic of the presentation will be Lean Manufacturing. June's speaker will be the PA Manufacturing Ombudsman, Mr. Tom Palisan. We are also working on getting the CareerTrack to give a presentation on the Sage Program.

### **ACMC Website Update**

The new pages of the website are up and running. They include a Preferred Vendors Page and a Government Information Page. If anyone needs information, please see the website, it is very helpful.

### **Old Business**

The costs to insert the flyers in the Chamber of Commerce mailings were as follows: Armstrong County - \$50. Strongland Chamber - \$125, Allegheny Valley Chamber - \$100, and the New Bethlehem Chamber - \$25. It was suggested by Mick Livingston and Jeff Fullerton to do direct mailing to companies. Mick also suggested that everyone bring a vendor list and give the letters to their vendors. A letter will be presented at the next meeting.

The Chamber of Commerce Luncheon is on March 8th. If you are not a member, you can go under the Consortium, please let Vickie know if you would like to attend.

### **New Business**

Jeff Fullerton volunteered to fill the vacant Vice President position. It was motioned by Doug Bartosh and seconded by Joe Goldcamp to approve the office.

Commissioner Patricia Kirkpatrick was a special guest at the meeting. The County has an office at the CareerLink that companies should take advantage of using. If anyone is interested they should call the Department of Planning to schedule the room. It is private, can be used for interviews and can be used at no charge. She also mentioned that the Armtech showcase is in its 9th year. They are doing a complete review of the Initiative. Consultants are studying what can be done to make it a year round effort. Preliminary reports are to broaden to Western PA to increase the technology initiative. The other results will be shared later. She also addressed the Workforce Forum on March 16th. It is great to have all the parties involved in the same room, working for the same cause. This is the first time that everyone involved will be focused on the same areas of need. They will have breakout sessions and David English will report back to the group with the findings. She stated that Lenape donated the building for the event. Vickie DeThomas stated that we all need to be there to have our voices heard. Commissioner Kirkpatrick stated that with the labor market the way it is, in the future will be almost impossible to locate employees. Southwestern PA in a crisis that needs addressed. She stated that educators should go to the places of employment to actually see what the companies require of employees. Mick Livingston stated that Commissioner Kirkpatrick has been greatly involved in this initiative for the last ten years. This has been her desire to help the employers find skilled staff but more importantly to educate students with the skills necessary for future employment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 am.