

Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium

Minutes

3/2/06

The March 2nd meeting of the Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium was brought to order by President Vickie DeThomas at 7:30 am.

Attendees:

Alex Stockmal – Mid Atlantic District Labs

Paul Bergad – Bergad Mattress

Marie Dillon – Griffith – Pennsylvania CareerLink

Bernie Marrese – RISG – Armstrong Precision Mfg.

Michael Livingston – RISG – Freeport Brick Div.

David English – Armstrong Educational Trust

Andrew Chomos – Caracal Inc.

Joe Goldcamp – Nature's Blend

Don Myers – Lenape Tech.

Mary Salony – Tri-County WIB

Vickie DeThomas – OmniTech Partners

Joanne Petras – RISG – Kittanning Brick Div.

Charles Slagle – CES Die Design Inc.

Jeff Fullerton – DRS & Infrared Tech.

Patty Kirkpatrick – Armstrong County Commissioner

Prior meeting minutes were approved.

Resource Partner Update

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

Don Myers, Lenape, brought the new academic standard curriculum for review; he questioned whether they could assist with the ACMC curriculum needs. Vickie DeThomas stated it is very important to have an outside curriculum to maintain tri-county equity.

David English, AET, reviewed his information with the grant information.

Marie Salony, WIB, reviewed the Wage Program to inform us that there is a Workforce Grant that helps adult learners get grants for education.

Marie Dillon-Griffith, PA CareerLink, The Career and Job Fair has been planned for March 29th at the Belmont Complex from 11:00 am – 6:00 pm. There are three or four tables remaining; the CareerLink will begin advertising the event. There was not any statistical information to report at this time.

CJT Grant

Robin Gorman is completing the Consortium CJT Grant. David English stated that money is limited this year but the new fiscal year has more possibilities. All information is to be sent to David and he will forward it to Robin.

Tri-County Capacity Building Grant – Review

Work Readiness Certificate - Committee Update - There was a tri-county meeting the week of February 21st with Indiana, Butler, the WIB and the CareerLink. We need to get two more quotes on a program that is similar to the Florida Program. The quotes will be requested from New Central Careers and Catalyst Connection. Once the quotes are received then we will send the information to Fred Fornataro for purchase.

Florida will send a trainer to educate five people, to include AET, CareerLink or Career Track and then the other resource partners will need to determine who they would like to have trained. If money is a problem, we still have \$5600 from InStep funds; it is still being determined how much will be required. Patty Kirkpatrick inquired how much money was needed so we could look for other sources for funds. She suggested contacting the Armstrong County Community Foundation. She mentioned that the Foundation offers a technical scholarship.

Incumbent Training Matrix and Plan – Committee Update – There was a meeting to review the curriculum that the committee decided upon; once it is finalized, it will be shared with the members. After the members have an opportunity to review the curriculum, it will be sent to the educational providers to offer quotes. Vickie DeThomas questioned if the state was looking for the

number of students to be trained. Mary Salony stated we should be as specific as possible. Bernie Maresse stated that our grant specifies that we only have an outline created. He will have more information at the next monthly meeting.

David English requested members to submit a monthly report of in-kind contributions to his office. We should be documenting all expenses; emails, copies etc.

Tri-County Incumbent Grant

There has been no response as of this date on this grant. July 1st is the deadline for the money to be used; that date should be extended due to late notification. There will be five students from each county attending the classes. If one county cannot send five people then the other counties can send additional students.

Manufacturing Industry Coordinator

There has been a tri-county meeting on the Manufacturing Industry Coordinator; Mary Salony came up with an advertisement to send to all three County CareerLinks. Marie Dillon-Griffith will establish criteria on how to go through the resumes. It would be a benefit to have the Coordinator centrally located with the counties. The Tri-County Chairs will be involved in the hiring process.

New Business

The state is sponsoring a conference at Sector Academy among 8-10 partnerships of Consortia to establish best practices. The WIB applied for the tri-county, including Vickie DeThomas to attend, but the manufacturing consortium was rejected because they were focusing on life sciences and healthcare. Mary Salony will attend the conference and then report back to the group. Patty Kirkpatrick stated that Armstrong County has the highest level of manufacturing jobs per demographics; so why would the state exclude the consortium from the conference. May Salony mentioned they might respond with another conference that focuses more on the manufacturing sector. Vickie DeThomas replied that we should ask for a commitment as to when it will be held and what they are doing to assist manufacturing. It is critical that we retain manufacturing jobs.

Commissioner Patty Kirkpatrick was a special guest at today's meeting. She wanted to make sure the group utilizes their elected officials to contact the right people. She stated that Senator White is a great support for maintaining manufacturing jobs in the county. She also mentioned that she always speaks on the Consortium's behalf when talking to new companies moving into the area. If we provide her with literature, she will distribute it for the Consortium. She wants to work together to find money for our needs. Commissioner Kirkpatrick stated that the nine Commissioners meet quarterly through the WIB and Fred Fornatoro prepares the agenda; if we want anything on the agenda or to attend the meeting, contact the WIB.

It was suggested by Vickie DeThomas that the Consortium meetings be held at different company locations; this may help recruitment. It was decided that once a quarter the meeting will be held at different company locations. Andrew Chomos volunteered Caracal for the May meeting.

All members who have an interest in certain speakers should contact Vickie DeThomas. New Century Careers and MSC will both have representatives at April's meeting. Vickie is working on a speaker for healthcare that will cover what drives your numbers up and how to save money.

On March 25th there will be a Sports Trivia Auction sponsored by the AET.

One March 3rd there will be a Chamber of Commerce luncheon at 11:30 am at the Belmont Complex.

Vickie DeThomas stated that in May we would like to have a marketing breakfast sponsored by the Board of Commissioners. If the invitations are distributed by the CareerLink then we can get companies names and addresses. Patty Kirkpatrick suggested if the Commissioners sponsor the breakfast, then we could use the Belmont.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 am.

The next meeting will be held on April 6th, 7:30 am.