

# Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium

Thursday, April 02, 2009

**Attending:** Joe Goldcamp (Nature's Blend Wood Products), Alex Stockmal (Mid-Atlantic District Labs), Chuck Slagle (CES Die Design), Johanna Murphy (Manufacturing Assistance Center), David English (Armstrong Educational Trust), Ken Raybuck (Tri-County Workforce Investment Board), Rich Muth (Indiana University of Pennsylvania Northpointe Regional Campus), Vickie DeThomas (OmniTech Partners), Marie Dillon-Griffith (PA CareerLink Armstrong County), Ken Kato (Dynamic Manufacturing), Ezra Mihalcin (Dynamic Manufacturing)

**Guests:** John Yankasky and Greg Mallory, General Physics Corporation

Interim chair Alex Stockmal opened the meeting at 8:04 AM. He welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## Guest Speakers

Alex introduced our guest speakers, John Yankasky and Greg Mallory from General Physics Corporation. GP just opened a new office in downtown Kittanning. They provided background information on GP, which has about 45 offices headquartered in Elkridge, Maryland. They do training and some engineering services. Annual revenue of about \$250 million. They have received some very nice training awards over the last several years.

Their business unit, GP Energy Services, has 40 years of industry experience. Working with all areas of power with 150 consultants (conventional, hydro, wind, etc. Annual revenue of \$13 million.

Services they provide include job and task analysis, training program design, and training program development, supporting documentation development, and instructor-led training. They use a training program pyramid, starting with fundamentals training, moving to site-specific training, and finishing with advanced training.

Generic fundamental training that they developed for the power industry should have broad appeal regardless of industry and background.

They introduced GPILearn, their proprietary, web-based training portal with more than 650 hours of content, using Oracle iLearning LMS with exams. The program can use either a generic site or branded site (with custom curricula, uploading of documents, enhanced reporting, and administrator training.) They pursue a blended learning approach, with on-line learning include along with instructor-led learning and other methods.

Possible courses which may appeal to a broad audience: Basic Math, Mechanical Maintenance, Electrical Maintenance, Instrumentation and Control, OSHA Compliance, and Environmental Compliance.

Over 200 power companies in the U.S. use GPILearn with over 30,000 seats for learners.

Either generic or specific integrated learning curricula could be set up for each individual in many companies through a local branded site (such as an APMC or AET site.) They have a users group annually (this year's session is next month in Denver.) They also do administrator training routinely as well to support the program. They are affiliated with a few colleges - Bismark State College, Excelsior College, Centralia Community College.

A demo can be arranged for anyone who is interested. They can make arrangements to view the program through AET (David has information on this.)

#### New Member

Dynamic Manufacturing has moved into Northpointe Industrial Park from U-Parc recently. The company makes circuit boards. They are part of the Matric Group located in Seneca, PA. Heavily involved in electronic controls. They have 40 direct laborers and a handful of administrative people. Low to mid volume production (50-5000 units per year.) They do full engineering services, design, concepts, and push it all the way through to production. They have some new automation equipment in the new space. They still do quite a bit of traditional manufacturing processes instead of automated processes.

#### Report on the Tri-County Manufacturing Consortia Chairs

Alex and Vickie met with the chairs from Butler and Indiana Counties on Monday. They are considering a tri-county industry consortia meeting. Possibilities are June 12 or June 26 at IUP Northpointe. Multiple speakers could be brought in for the day's program. Topics might include economic conditions, green issues, and others. Representatives from members of all three county consortia would be invited to participate. Members were fully supportive of the idea and participation in the program. They would like suggestions for topics or speakers. Types of funds available may be one topic.

Strategic planning or grant preparation session will probably be planned around the same time. Could some of this time during this day be devoted to consideration of planning for the new grants? At least there will be room on the agenda for that topic.

#### ARMTech Showcase Planning

Do we want to have a booth at ARMTech? Response was it seems important to have a presence. Cost is still around the same as previous years - \$300. Could we have a joint booth with the Technology Consortium? Perhaps we can consider this for the following year. The funds are available in the marketing and outreach budget for this year. David English will submit the ACMC application and get a check from Joanne for that purpose.

#### 2008-2009 Industry Partnership Funding

For the tuition reimbursement program, the chairs reviewed the submitted information on Monday. There were close to \$90,000 in programs submitted. There are still some funds available, so Vickie asked David to send out a reminder to members about the opportunity.

With the total of almost \$145,000 available, we may have funds in addition to this to commit.

For shared training, the chairs reviewed proposals on Monday. Green issues - green for facilities and the other is green products. Human resources update is another topic. The other is strategic business communication processes. If there are responses from a balance of all three counties - the sessions will be held in Armstrong County. The request for welding was set aside since there are not enough specifics on the need and the potential program.

About \$33,000 in shared training is available.

For industry partnership funds, the consortium is working with the Armstrong County Forum for Workforce Excellence, Female Alliance for STEM Excellence, and others.

### Committee Reports

*Public Awareness* - Two programs are left on the radio. Perhaps Dynamic Manufacturing would want to be guests in April or May.

*Preferred Vendors* - Joe would consider arranging special pricing on home products.

*Training* - This was already covered.

*Educational Awareness* - David mentioned the Student Forum at ARMTech and the Educator in the Workplace program.

*New Members* - One new member - Dynamic Manufacturing. Alex visited Sloan Brothers this week and invited them to join.

### Old Business

None

### New Business

None

### Member Updates

Vickie asked DRS Johnstown to consider staying on as members.

All the leases at their building come due around the same time.

### Partners Updates

Rich mentioned the summer EO camp, which is free and planned again this year.

Enrollment is limited, but they are still looking for students.

They are looking at revisions to the Electro-Optics program to keep up with industry need and requirement. There is discussion about changing the name of the program. Bringing back an evening class again this fall semester to see if the registrants will be adults working in the industry or related area.

Vickie asked about students gaining a certificate for participation in the program.

Considering a one-credit laser safety course, to be potentially designed in the future.

### Other Items

Ken asked for members to submit the in-kind forms for participation.

Ken will be sending out a new training survey in the next week or so for members to complete.

Alex adjourned the meeting at 9:30 AM.

**Next meeting:** May 7 at 8:00 AM.