

Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium
Minutes
6/7/07

The June 7, 2007 meeting of the Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium was brought to order by president Vickie DeThomas at 7:30 am.

Present:

Members

Andy Chomos – Caracal, Inc.
Randy Bowser - Alkab
Jim Pish – Dielectric Solutions
Vickie DeThomas - OmniTech Partners
Joe Goldcamp – Nature’s Blend Wood Products
Patrick Huth – Penn State Electro-Optics
Joanne Petras – Fuzion Technologies
Mary Williams– Dielectric Solutions
Chuck Slagle - CES Design
Alex Stockmal – Mid Atlantic District Labs
Dean Myers – Myers Vacuum
Jeff Fullerton – DRS Technologies

Resource Partners

Commissioner Patty Kirkpatrick
Kate Curtis – Clarion University – SBDC
Karma Edward – Manufacturing Assistance Center
David English – Armstrong Educational Trust
Lori Harvey – WIB
Pat Hollinger – Penn State University
Justin Nolder – Dept. of Planning & Development
Mary Salony - WIB
Marie Dillon- Griffith - CareerLink
Don Myers – Lenape Technical School

Special Guest

Tom Palisan – PA Manufacturing Omsbudman

Minutes

Prior meeting minutes were approved with a motion from Alex Stockmal and seconded by Pat Hollinger.

Resource Partner Update

Pat Hollinger, Penn State - New Kensington - They are currently helping companies with WeDNet applications. A company is not obligated to do training at Penn State even if they process their application. She also mentioned that they have a scholarship available for students for economic hardship and classes for a Certificate of Management in the fall. If anyone is interested in additional information, they may contact her.

Kate Curtis - SBDC - She distributed magazines on small business. She also wanted to inform the group that the Clarion SBDC now has a blog spot. They also have links in small business for anyone that may be interested.

Karma Edwards - Manufacturing Assistance Center - They have a machining & CNC class that begins on July 9th. The students have to be CareerLink or Corporation sponsored to get into the class. If anyone has any questions, contact Karma.

David English - AET - There is still follow-up work from the Workforce Forum. A meeting will be held with representatives from 9 industry clusters to put together the 2007/2008 school year work plan. They are looking for educators to visit the workplace.

Justin Nolder - Department of Planning - The Armtech dates for this year will be August 15th - 17th. Anyone that needs information, please contact Justin. He stated that currently they have 31 exhibitors with 5 or 6 new companies. This year the schedule will include workshops through the Electro-Optics center held at both Theresa’s restaurant and at the Belmont.

Marie Dillon-Griffith - PA CareerLink - They are very busy at the CareerLink. The Work Certified Program is in progress but finding participants has been a problem. They are currently working through all the details.

Don Myers - Lenape Vo-Technical School - He distributed a copy of the newsletter and informed the group that the co-op students were working out good. If anyone has any questions or needs from this program, contact him.

Video Projects

There is funding available for the WIBs to do a CareerGate CD on one industry cluster, which will be focused on young people, and manufacturing was chosen. Now, each of the counties will now choose one company for the CD project. Marie will pick the company based on CareerLink usage.

The ACMC video project has \$20,000 available to complete the project. There are currently three proposals. A meeting will follow this meeting to review the content of the proposals. This video will showcase all positions within the company.

Hershey Conference

The members that attended the conference were Vickie DeThomas, David English, Marie Dillon-Griffith and Mary Salony. A presentation was given regarding what was happening in Armstrong County and the Work Certified Program was a major detail in the presentation.

CJT Funding

Joe Goldcamp stated that feedback needed to be given back to Jane Gardner as soon as possible. IUP will go into the companies and determine the problems that exist. It is a good idea to have the companies pick a project and then have IUP come in. They are looking for manufacturers within the Consortium to be apart of this. The companies need to get working on it before fall. It is a good opportunity to have someone come into you plant on a regular basis. Please contact Joe for more information.

Special Guest

There was a special guest, Tom Palisan, Manufacturing Ombudsman for the State. He gave a detailed presentation on what his office can do for the manufacturing community. He is an advocate between the state and manufacturing and he can answer any questions anyone may have.

New Business

MSC will be giving members a 10% discount through September and then they will look again at the group discount. They are not seeing much usage.

The CareerLink System will change completely over the Labor Day weekend. If anyone needs any help using the system, Marie volunteered to help the companies that needed assistance to work the new system. If you will require a visit, contact Marie.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 am. The next meeting will be held in August. There will be no July meeting due to the holiday.