

Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium

Minutes

8/3/06

The August 3rd meeting of the Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium was brought to order by President Vickie DeThomas at 7:30 am.

Present:

Members

Mark Balentine - AstenJohnson
Douglas Bartosh - Unimach Manufacturing
Vickie DeThomas - OmniTech Partners
Jeff Fullerton – DRS Infrared Solutions
Joanne Petras – Fuzion Tech. – Kittanning Brick Div.
Denise Rosenberger – Dielectric Solutions
Chuck Slagle - CES Design
Alex Stockmal – Mid Atlantic District Labs

Resource Partners

Carl Bembem, Tri-County WIB
Kate Curtis – Clarion University – SBDC
David English – Armstrong Educational Trust
Jane Gardner – Indiana University of PA
Pat Hollinger – Penn State, New Kensington
Mary Lou Hulings - CareerLink
Rich Muth – Indiana University of PA - Northpointe
Mea Scholl – Integrated Quality Systems, Inc.

Minutes

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.

Kate Curtis, Clarion University, SBDC – Kate introduced herself to the group and the services of the Small Business Development Center. They help small businesses determine their future plans. There are sixteen small business centers in PA, split according to geographic location. Their services are free to small businesses and start-up companies. Dave English stated there is representative from the SBDC at the Department of Planning once a month. Vickie Dethomas also attended a SBDC seminar that provided great information.

Mary Lou Hulings – CareerLink - She brought the July wage statistics for the group. Vickie Dethomas spoke with Marie Dillon-Griffith, WIB and the Commissioners and the move is getting close with October 1st being the goal. Vickie reviewed the necessity of the move and how strongly the Consortium supports the move.

Pat Hollinger – Penn State – The first stage of the management classes have been completed, Dave English has the evaluations and attendance records. Vickie Dethomas requested students give a critical evaluation of the class to allow for needed changes in the future. The certificates will be presented soon.

Jane Gardner – IUP – The CJT Grant has been approved for \$250,000 over a three year period. All the training has been approved. Jane should be receiving the paperwork from the state then the training can begin. There is also a chance to apply for Wednet on a Consortia level. She mentioned that small companies, with fewer than 100 employees, can get an exception when training their upper level management employees. If you have any questions on whether your company would be included, please contact Jane.

Rich Muth – IUP - The Electro-Optics Summer Camp has begun and seventeen students are attending. It is open to all high school juniors and seniors in the Science Program at no cost. The Industrial & Labor Relations Studies will begin in January if anyone has students that are interested. The Bachelors in Marketing Program will begin at Northpointe this fall.

Updates Vickie DeThomas

Vice President - Bernie Maresse, APM, resigned his position with Armstrong Precision Manufacturing, as well as the Consortium Vice President. The Vice President's position is now open; if anyone is interested, please contact Vickie or notify the group at next month's meeting. This person must provide backup to the president.

Armtech Schedule - Volunteers are needed for the Consortium Armtech Booth. Those volunteering include: Pat Hollinger, Dave English, Kate Curtis, Chuck Slagle, Joanne Petras, Mark Balentine, Vickie DeThomas, and Carl Bembem. Jeff Fullerton stated a change is being considered for the schedule and format. The Armtech Committee would like to make it more appealing to the community and businesses. Jeff also suggested to the Electro-Optics Center to join our monthly Consortium meetings. Pat Hollinger

suggested that the Consortium provide a workshop on their progress at Armtech next year. Jeff stated that the Department of Planning is also planning to focus on other areas other than specifically Electro-Optics. Alex Stockmal stated that the Chamber of Commerce can only be present, at their booth, on Thursday.

Information – Vickie had information for interested companies on Aerotek, Business Assistance Brochures, Health & Safety brochures and calibration information. If the Consortium would like purchase the safety brochures, for their employers, and then make copies; we can consider doing that. It can be discussed at next month's meeting.

Grant Information - Vickie met with Mark Shoaf regarding Innovation Works; this company helps bring technology grants to companies. The grants are for up to \$50,000. The grant must be matched by the manufacturer dollar for dollar. Equipment purchases can be used for the match. If your company is in need of a technology grant and can match the funds, the program is available. If you need more information on the grant, the website is innovationworks.org.

New Industry Partnership Grant - Vickie stated there was only one week given for the Consortia to prepare the budget amount for the next fiscal year. She sat down with the chairman from Butler County and they requested \$95,000. The entire amount has been utilized and will be submitted to the state for approval. The Armstrong County Consortium requested \$2,500 for website revamp and support, \$5000 for advertising and marketing and \$3000 for travel/meal for marketing events. It was questioned if we would like to consider billboard marketing or possibly a book on manufacturers. It was decided that we were not ready for a billboard campaign but the booklet could possibly be produced by an intern.

New Business

The CareerLinks and the WIBs went to the Indiana Business Development Group and asked them to analyze the CareerLink to determine how they could market them. Vickie Dethomas contacted the Indiana Chairman to see if we could do that for the Consortium. We could possibly have students perform the surveys on other states and provide the results.

Optical Systems has a Project Engineer that is in need of a job if any of the companies are interested, please contact Vickie.

The guest speaker from the IUP Health & Safety Department was not able to make the meeting. He will reschedule at a later date.

The Human Resource Program grant was extended. The program will begin on September 8th and will be completed by October 10th. All of the details are yet to be finalized.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 am

The next meeting will be held on September 7, 2006 at 7:30 am at the Armstrong Educational Trust Office.