

**Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium  
Members & Resource Partners Meeting  
Minutes  
August 7, 2008**

The August 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium was called to order by president Vickie DeThomas at 7:35 AM at PA CareerLink Armstrong County.

**Present**

**Members**

Vickie DeThomas – OmniTech Partners  
Jeff Fullerton – DRS Technologies  
Joe Goldcamp – Nature’s Blend  
Chuck Slagle – CES Die Design  
Alex Stockmal – Mid-Atlantic District Labs

**Resource Partners**

Kate Curtis – Clarion SBDC  
Marie Dillon-Griffith – CareerLink  
David English – AET  
Lori Harvey – TCWIB  
Pat Hollinger – Penn State New Ken  
Rich Muth – IUP Northpointe

**Minutes**

Vickie DeThomas asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes. Rich Muth noted that spelling of guest Donna Livengood’s name was incorrect. Joe Goldcamp made a motion to accept the minutes with this change noted. Chuck Slagle seconded the motion. The motion passed upon a voice vote.

**Reports**

**President**

Vickie DeThomas gave an update on the grant requests for 2008-2009. In the manufacturing consortia’s request to the state for Industry Partnership funding, each county would receive approximately \$16,000 for partnership activities and opportunities. The incumbent worker training funding request includes funding for both shared training and tuition reimbursement. Vickie noted that funding for training welders was included; however, she has been noticing many more requests for training machinists. She recommended that we review this need for the future.

The only response to a request made to members to identify potential speakers/topics for future meetings was from Joe Goldcamp. He inquired about reviewing possible pay incentive plans.

Vickie DeThomas shared with the group that our members are engaged and involved in nearly every important board, committee, and action team in Armstrong County. She has a complete list and would be happy to share the information.

Exploration of possible non-profit organization status has been discussed at prior meetings. A number of other consortia are pursuing 501 c 3 charitable organization status. Vickie DeThomas asked Alex Stockmal if he would be willing to lead a group looking into this possibility. Alex agreed to do so.

Regarding upcoming meetings, Vickie DeThomas announced the following:

- The December meeting (December 4) will be a members-only meeting. Election of new officers will be on the agenda.
- The January meeting will be held on January 8 since the first Tuesday of January is New Year's Day.
- There will be no meeting held in July.

Vickie DeThomas also announced that a meeting of the original five members of the consortium is planned.

### **Treasurer**

Since Joanne Petras was away, Vickie DeThomas presented the treasurer's report.

At present, the account balance is \$2944.55. Vickie DeThomas would recommend moving some of this amount to a Certificate of Deposit.

### **Public Awareness**

Jeff Fullerton reported that the initial radio program on July 23 went well. The focus of the discussion was the ARMTech Showcase. The next show will be later in August.

Vickie DeThomas shared a graphic representation of the marketing efforts in place.

### **Training**

Joe Goldcamp told the group that he has not received responses to his request for ideas and recommendations for training needed by members for their companies. The group discussed the attraction of the tuition reimbursement program.

Pat Hollinger suggested establishing a committee to visit members to help determine training interests and needs. The group agreed that this is a good idea. Pat will be responsible for leading this effort.

Lori Harvey mentioned that some of the topics listed in the shared training proposal were customer service strategies, going green, and advanced supervision.

### **Education Awareness**

Among the many initiatives under way are:

- The video
- SET program (on flash drives for members)
- Posters
- Table top display
- Educator in the Workplace
- STEM for girls

Other initiatives will be shared as the year progresses.

## **New Members**

David English and Kate Curtis shared a proposal to recruit new members. The members will be asked to make follow up contacts with prospective new members in the fall.

## **ARMTech Showcase**

Vickie DeThomas passed around a sign up sheet for coverage during the set up, public session, business to business session, and take down portions of next week's ARMTech Showcase of Industry and Technology. Members are asked in particular to assist with Thursday afternoon and Friday morning, when several members and resource partners will be unavailable due to the Student Forum.

## **Manufacturing Video**

The new video, Go for the Gold: Career Opportunities in Manufacturing, was shown to an audience for the first time. Members received copies of the video for viewing and sharing.

## **Partner Updates**

### *Lenape*

Vickie DeThomas passed along her conversation with Joe Fullerton. He is working on a principal certification and will need to interact with students at all levels. He also will be assisting with connections with elementary school parent-teacher organizations regarding careers in manufacturing.

### *CareerLink*

Vickie DeThomas congratulated Marie Dillon-Griffith and the staff for a successful Veterans Fair and Expo. Although only 130 veterans participated, the quality of participants was high, and the exhibitors were pleased to do something for those who have served.

### *IUP*

Rich Muth announced that Dorothy Zilic has accepted a position with Pitt Greensburg. IUP will fill the position. If anyone knows of someone who might be interested, please contact Rich.

### *Penn State*

Pat Hollinger told the group a career fair will be held at Penn State New Kensington on October 1 through the efforts of the CareerLink sites in Westmoreland and Armstrong Counties. Consortium members are invited to participate. She also passed out a list of courses planned for the fall to encourage ideas about training needs.

### *Clarion*

Business is picking up according to Kate Curtis. A recent grand opening was a great success. The monthly workshop is now offered on Tuesday evenings at the Trust; evenings have generally been better for participants.

**New Business**

David English mentioned that Patrick Huth from the Electro-Optics Center has accepted a position at CCAC. He will be working with the EOC part-time for a short period, but he will not be at ARMTEch next week.

With no other business to conduct, president DeThomas adjourned the meeting at 8:45 AM.