

Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium

Minutes

9/7/06

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

Present:

Members

Vickie DeThomas - OmniTech Partners
Jeff Fullerton – DRS Infrared Solutions
Joe Goldcamp – Nature's Blend Wood Products
Joanne Petras – Fuzion Technologies
Mick Livingston – Fuzion Technologies
Chuck Slagle - CES Design
Alex Stockmal – Mid Atlantic District Labs

Special Guests

Roy Cigola – Progressive Workshop
George Gardopee – Rapt Industries
Bill Kabizie – Alkab Contract Mfg.
Brenda Kunst – Complete Custom Monogram
Gary Zacherl - Sabeus

Resource Partners

Carl Bembem, Tri-County WIB
Nick Caruso – Armstrong County Planning Dept.
Kate Curtis – Clarion University – SBDC
David English – Armstrong Educational Trust
Joe Fullerton – Lenape Technical School
Jane Gardner – Indiana University of PA
Marie Dillon-Griffith - CareerLink
Rich Muth – Indiana University of PA - Northpointe
Mary Salony- Tri-County WIB

Guest Speakers

Scott Grumski, Technical Learning Consultants
Jim Hayes, Technical Learning Consultants.

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.

Marie Dillon-Griffith – CareerLink - All news pertaining to the move of their office remains the same. She distributed Labor Market Information to the group. Marie informed the group of the 200 employees from Eljer that lost their jobs and this would consume much of the CareerLink time.

Jane Gardner – IUP – Jane reminded the group of the Wednet Application that can be filed on a Consortium Level. This needs to be acted upon quickly because the funds are distributed on a first come basis. All the participants in the application have to be eligible for Wednet this year and participate in the same training. She reinforced the fact that we can have Wednet and CJT running at the same time. Jane indicated that are training plan has to be specific. Joanne was going to send an email to members to determine if there was any interest in pursuing this application. All companies involved in the CJT Grant will have to stay after the meeting for necessary signatures.

Mary Salony – WIB – The Industry Partnership Grant was reviewed. There is no news yet from the State. The check was received for the Florida curriculum. There has not been a reply yet as to when the material will be received.

Carl Bembem – The IUP H/R Class will begin on September 8th. The Lean Manufacturing Class still has openings. There has only been two classes to date. The next class is September 13th. An Incumbent Training Grant had been submitted for Solid Works, KAM and CNC training. This training was requested by Butler Consortium; they will open it up to others. The location needs to be put up for bid. This is all after hours training.

Rich Muth – IUP - The Industrial & Labor Relations Studies will begin in January if anyone has students that are interested. The new school year is underway.

Joe Fullerton – Lenape Technical School – Adult Education Classes have begun. They have also begun an OSHA training in Construction and General Industry. If anyone is interested they can call Joe for additional details.

Kate Curtis – SBDC – Tuesday there is a First Step class on starting a business. She also has the success story for the Addison House in the works.

Nick Caruso – DPD – Nick is wrapping up the Armtech Event by sending questionnaires for feedback. They are now focusing on the relationships that have been built.

Updates Vickie DeThomas

Armtech - The Armtech Technology Expo went well; we will have our own booth next year. We have made good contacts that will hopefully want to explore group membership.

Information – All the information that was provided to Vickie on background checks and drug screening was greatly appreciated. If anyone else has a question for the group, let us know and we can send emails.

JJ Kellar - They offer an on-line safety program that provides policies, safety management and provides step by step instruction. Optical Systems and Dielectric Solutions are interested in this program. We can get a group discount if any members would like to be involved. If we have one – four members the cost would be \$795; five to nine would be \$695 and ten plus would be \$595. Joanne will send an email to the members to determine the amount of group interest. Mick Livingston questioned if we could purchase something like this to use in a library for members use. Vickie will look into this.

OSHA Course – Vickie is conducting a 10 hour OSHA course Lenape Technical School doing the instruction. She offered the members a chance to join her class. If anyone is interested, they should contact her.

Manufacturing Information – Vickie distributed an article by Senator Wonderling on Manufacturing. She also mentioned the Dave Frengl, Director of Government Affairs will be brought back to the group to provide an update on current manufacturing issues.

Marketing Ideas – Vickie requested marketing suggestions from the group. Dave English and the Healthcare Consortium designed a 15 minute video on the most demanding professions. They shared the number of employees required, salary and the education requirements. The cost of the video was \$13,000; if we choose to do one, it would be double that amount. The project will be three-fold. It will be used to at the schools to encourage students look into manufacturing jobs, it will market the member organizations and it will also help the Planning Department promote economic development within the county. Marie Dillon-Griffith suggested the companies consider if they would allow a video production company to come into their plants and video. Alex Stockmal offered to lead this project for the Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium. He will need people to volunteer to work with him on this project. If you want to be apart of this workgroup advise Vickie or Joanne. Joe Fullerton stated that it would be a good tool for guidance counselors to use in leading students into the manufacturing jobs.

Chamber Luncheon - The Chamber of Commerce Luncheons are monthly at Lenape Country Club. September's luncheon is today and Representative Jeff Pyle will be speaking. Vickie stated that if anyone wanted to attend these meetings for the Consortium, please let her know.

New Business

Guest Speaker – Scott Grumski and Jim Hayes from Technical Learning Consultants spoke to the group on the product/services their company has to offer. They do computer based technical training that can be customized for any organization. The benefits of the training include the company being able to educate their employees according to their schedule; it is convenient and can be utilized over and over. They stated that Wednet funds can be used to pay for training. The cost of design of the training would be paid for by the company but when the training is performed; it can be submitted under the company's WEDNet grant. All proprietary information is safe; Technical Learning Consultants has to sign waivers when they are contracted by the company. All companies that have an interest can contact Jim Hayes or Scott Grumski at (724) 224-6030 or visit tlearnc.com.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 am.

The next meeting will be held on October 5, 2006 at 7:30 am at IUP, Northpointe.