

BUTLER COUNTY MANUFACTURING CONSORTIUM

Minutes for April 25, 2007

Present

Lori Harvey, Tri-County WIB
Diana McCormish, JSP
Sally McCombs, JSP
Mike King, South Butler School District
Brandi Heichel, IDL Worldwide
Rich Schellinger, TRACO
Kyle Knapp, Du-Co Ceramics Co.
Scott Dietz, Catalyst Connection
Neil Ashbaugh, Oberg
Terri Lee Bowser, CID Assoc.
Susan Kier, CID Assoc.
Scott Docherty, CID Assoc.
Heather Swiergol, BCAVTS
Bruce Curry, Penna Flame
Doug Bartosh, Unimach Mfg
Stephanie Karwoski, SRAHS
Andrew Johnson, SRAHS
Cheryl Quinn, CDC of Butler
Patrick Coulson, CDC of Butler
Jim Ferguson, Penn United Technologies
Kristen Bastaja, Penn United Technologies
Chuck Guiste, Penn United Technologies
Denise Craven, Penn United Technologies - guest
Cindy Sheppeck, Penn United Technologies – guest
Diana Maxwell, Penn United Technologies – guest
Esther Locke, Penn United Technologies - guest
Jack Conway, U.S. DOL/ Office of Apprenticeships – special guest

Jim welcomed everyone, members, partners and special guests for our Administrative Professionals luncheon.

Minutes for March 2007 were approved as written. Doug reported a **balance of \$1950 in the treasury.**
Doug reminded all members to please pay dues for 2007.

Member Update:

Medrad and Napco both have expressed interest in joining the consortium.

Previous Business

CAD/CAM/CNC Training: 5 participants. Looking at developing another class.

SolidWorks Training: – Completed.

MasterCam Training – Begins 5/15. There are slots still available. Contact Lisa Campbell if interested.

Current Business

Bureau of Apprenticeship Training: Jim introduced Jack Conway, from the Pittsburgh Bureau of Apprenticeship Training. Handles Apprenticeships registrations from Erie, West Virginia, Pittsburgh to Johnstown. His focus is on Training Workforce Development. He assists companies in developing Apprenticeship programs.

- * Over 1000 apprenticeship occupations nationwide. (Examples: construction trades, manufacturing)
- * On the Job Learning (OJL) requires minimum of 2000 hours plus must match up with educational classes (144 classroom hours)
- * Companies are NOT charged any fees for apprenticeship consultation
- * Mr. Conway stressed that it is important to continue to develop more Apprenticeships as finding skilled workers becomes more and more difficult.
- * Jack Conway's contact information: (412)395-5037, Federal Building in Pittsburgh
- * Great website to check out: www.careervoyages.gov to get an idea of the Apprenticeship programs in this area.
- * Jack discussed the importance of reaching and educating the parents about the advantages of apprenticeship programs: earning good wages *while* learning, no or low school dept, Journeyman's papers, etc...

Slippery Rock High School Career Expo

Feedback on the 4/20/07 Event:

- * Slippery Rock High School students enjoyed the expo.
- * Students commented that they learned more about manufacturing careers
- * Enjoyed having both the live radio broadcast as well as coverage from the Butler Eagle
- * Faculty also thought the event went very well and was a great addition to their career exploration curriculum.

Suggestions for the next Career Expo:

- * Students requested more careers from Information Technology and Healthcare fields.
- * More parental involvement. Suggestions included inviting parents to the daytime event OR inviting parents to attend an after-school/after-work session of the expo.
 - 1) Positives of the parental involvement are that manufacturers would have the opportunity to educate parents, who help to guide and steer their children's career choices, about the advantages of careers in advanced manufacturing.
 - 2) Negatives discussed include: parents steering their kids toward (or away) from companies that the kids would otherwise go to; evening session would require longer commitment from employers.
- * Fact sheet for students to take with them giving statistics on averages wages, career paths, career development, etc...
- * 7 school districts in Butler County – goal is to replicate Expo in each school
Knoch definitely wants to host an Expo for the Fall 2007

Image Promotion

Manufacturing Television Show: Neil Ashbaugh is developing a brief questionnaire to companies to help prepare for the shows. Need to work on aligning hosts, people to interview. TV shows are free for consortium members now, but would like to open up to other manufacturers in Butler County. Would be able to broadcast shows in 7 states!

Vo-tech DVD : Heather Swiergol shared that the Vo-tech made a DVD of all their 15 programs. Also, suggested we could possibly air the manufacturing tv shows on channel 1 in the schools.

Billboards: want to get moving on these before June 30th grant deadline

Career-A-Poolza: Cruise-A-Poolza is an annual event for car buffs held in downtown Butler. May want to consider it for 2008 event.

W.I.I.F.M. (What's In It for Manufacturing)

- * Butler County Guidance Counselors Meeting May 18th. Armstrong Group may have video done for their meeting.
- * Legislative issues affecting Manufacturing: Chuck Guiste went to Washington D.C. to talk to representatives about manufacturing issues:
 - 1) MEP – Manufacturing Extension Program – for training.
 - \$111 million was designated for training in 2006
 - \$46 million is being targeted for the 2008 budget – this is a tremendous decrease in training funds for manufacturing.
 - 2) No Child Left Behind – up for Vote. Lobbying to allow industry to have a position on the board.
 - 3) Trade Issues – currency manipulation and fair trade. Example, steel dumping into U.S.
 - 4) Union card issues – passed in the House. Proposal eliminates employee choice and voting would be non-private. Sets up potential for a dangerous situation, especially for smaller shops. Chuck stressed being more politically aware of legislative issues affecting manufacturing and making our voices known.

Members voted to continue meetings throughout the summer.

***Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 23rd at 7:30 am
Butler CareerLink.***