

BUTLER COUNTY MANUFACTURING CONSORTIUM

Minutes for December 14, 2007

Present

Scott Dietz / Catalyst Connection
Doug & Laura Bartosh / Unimach Mfg
Clayton Woodward / Woodward, Inc.
Neil Ashbaugh / Oberg Industries
John Reid / II-VI
Terri Lee Bowser / CID Associates
Don Neff / Eagle Rubber
Rich Schellinger / TRACO
Lori Harvey / TCWIB
Bruce Curry / Penna Flame
Chuck Guiste, Jim Ferguson, Kristen Bastaja / Penn United Technologies
Karma Edwards / MAC
Lisa Campbell / BC3

Jim Ferguson welcomed everyone to our Christmas meeting at the Succop Conservancy. Special thanks to the Conservancy and John LeFevre for catering. This was followed by introductions.

Copies of the November '07 minutes meeting were distributed prior to the meeting and approved as written.

Doug Bartosh reported that we have \$1,034.00 remaining in the Treasury. Invoices will be sent out for the 2008 membership dues (\$100 for the year). Currently have 24 member companies!

Previous Business

1. **Training**
 - a) MarketSphere - Lori shared that she will be attending a meeting on 12/18 to review their curriculum. Will be directing them to mirror the MSSC style.
 - b) MSSC – Jim had a meeting with BC3 regarding the MSSC curriculum. BC3 is interested in the idea of using the text at high school level as an “advanced placement” course and then giving college credit at BC3. Also discussed teaching the course as a required course in the college level manufacturing program. Or if a graduating h.s. school went directly into manufacturing after completing the course, could possibly give advanced standing (higher starting wage) in a company. From discussions, people seem to be very open to the idea and the importance of getting a manufacturing curriculum in the high schools. Over the next **2 years**, the Butler Guidance Counselors are emphasizing manufacturing.

2. **Grant Update**
 - a) Lori H. shared that most of the individual county budgets are finalized. Need to finalize how to spend “Dream It Do It” monies if not for that particular program. An educational grant of \$1000 was given to each school for career awareness. Perhaps some of this money could be used for school/career expos (coordination, materials expenses). Reminder, that the state will be giving more favor to grant requests from partnerships (groups, consortiums). Regional Career Education Partnerships
3. **Schools**
 - a) Career Brochures – “Manufacture Your Career” brochures. Continuing to improve brochure draft. Will be updated with salary range information. Plus, we will remove some of the pictures on the back and use that space to add career exploration websites.
 - b) H.S. Connection – Career Days – Slippery Rock H.S. **April 17. * Please note the November minutes listed the wrong date*** Are discussing with Knoch when their Expo will be.
 - c) Teacher Award – Plan to have an annual award to recognize the teacher/school/ & manufacturer that has done the most to promote manufacturing careers in an unbiased, unprejudiced way. Teachers will need to be nominated by their superintendent. Schools can self-nominate. Time frame discussed May 1 nomination deadline so award decisions can be made by the end of the school year. Venue is still to be decided. School typically have award assemblies at the end of the year. The award itself is still to be decided (plaque, trophy, certificate?) Members and partners agreed it should incorporate a bridge concept (ie. Uses wire rope logo, plus symbolizes making the bridge between education & industry.)
 - d) Can we do our own “Dream It Do it” kind of promotion of our own local success stories. Local people make more of an impact. Would anyone from your company be interested in talking with someone/ being interviewed to get their success story?
 - e) Scholarship/Intern Program – Mike King from Knoch H.S. shared that II-VI has an excellent internship program in place for h.s. students who are interested in engineering careers. It could be a model or example for other companies to use in mentoring and developing future engineers or leaders.
4. **BC3 Summer Camps** – Because we have had no success with anyone from Nuts, Bolts & Thingamagigs returning our calls, we feel our efforts should now be directed towards doing the “summer camp” experience for younger students ourselves. BC3 already has programs in place from their existing “Kids on Campus” that would coordinate well with manufacturing concepts. Is there a manufacturing “activity” booklet for elementary or middle school students? Does one already exist or could one be developed?

Image

1. **Tri-County Manufacturing Video** – No report.
2. **Career Gates Video** – no report.
3. **Armstrong Show** – no report.
4. **BCMC Website / job source** – no report.
5. **Mall Recruit** –
 - * The BCMC is penned in for Center Court at Clearview Mall for February 15 & 16. Cost to Consortium will be \$2000. The goal of the Manufacturing Expo is show off what we do! Focus on end products that perhaps the consumer would recognize and what role we play in that. Strive to have an interactive component – allow people to get their hands on components/products.
 - * It was also suggested to perhaps do “a day in the life” idea, from waking up, driving your car to work, the computer you use, etc... all the things that people use in their everyday life and how the Consortium member companies make things people use everyday. Creative idea worth pursuing to really get people to understand how manufacturing directly affects them.
 - * Time Frame: 10 am – 9 pm. Great opportunity for community exposure.
 - * Cost - \$50 for members/resource partners. Non-members could be charged a much higher amount. We will send out a follow-up email with more details.
 - * Will need a commitment response by January 15th.

6. Manufacturing Radio Program – Jim Lokhaiser is one of Butler's newly elected Commissioners. He does a weekly radio sports show. Perhaps he could help us with a radio show promoting manufacturing?

Growth

Current / New Business

1. Have learned that Ibustek plans on adding 1000 employees in the next year. They purchased property in the Victory Road Industrial Park.
2. Karma, from the MAC center, shared that most applicants who apply for a job are typically unqualified. To help open up the “pipeline”, could manufacturers have on hand (or even keep in lobby for applicants to pick up) resources on local training programs. Perhaps develop a packet of training resources for applicants to take with them to become better qualified for manufacturing positions. Could there also be an unmanned kiosk at the mall where we could have a manufacturing careers literature and training resources? Jim will look into this further.
3. Any education or industry success stories, please forward to Lori H. She will include them in her report to the state.

What's In It For Manufacturing

1. News: Congratulations to “Manufacturer of the Year” finalists Oberg, DuCo Ceramics, MSA and TRACO. They were all recognized in the latest edition of the Pittsburgh Business Times.
2. Mike King is looking for people to be on Knoch’s Career Exploration Review Board for students’ senior projects. If interested, please email Mike.
3. Staffing Agencies- Spherion staffing agency contacted Jim and asked to be part of our Consortium. Jim brought the decision to the members. IF they would be allowed to join, they would need to give consortium members a discount. Jim asked what the manufacturers which, if any staffing companies they are presently using. Could Spherion match or better their rates? I.e. create a preferred vendor list? Staffing companies can also do aptitude testing and drug screening.
4. MedExpress- Jim shared information on MedExpress, an urgent care facility located in Cranberry. The cost is significantly less than an Emergency Room visit. Could also be used to help with work related injuries. Open 9am – 9 pm, 7 days a week.
5. Scott Dietz, from Catalyst Connection shared they are offering a subsidized internship program to support manufacturing interns. To be eligible, companies must have 250 employees or less and must be technology focused in some way. The program can match up to \$3000 for cost of internship and outreach to find interns (Catalyst can help you find the interns). 30 slots are available. See Scott if you have further questions.
6. Lori Harvey shared that there is also money available to encourage Security Preparedness. Could include physical site security, IT security, identity theft, ...anything that support security Money needs to be spent by April. Please see Lori H. for further information.

Next meeting will be Wednesday January 23rd at the Butler Vo-Tech's Conference Room. Meeting will begin at 8:30 am. Special guest County Commissioner Jim Lokhaiser will join us.