

# Indiana County Manufacturing Consortium

## Meeting Minutes

### November 12, 2009

Attendees: Frank Holuta – Elkin  
Ellen Starry – Gorell  
Mike Rempel – Gorell  
Julie Miller – MGK  
Steve McPherson – MGK  
Dave Coleman – Cleveland Brothers  
Carrie Roup – Clark Metal Products  
Jim M – JJ Kennedy  
Dennis McCracken – Quintech  
Nancy Saxman – Synergy  
Dan Super – Homer City Automation

Ken Raybuck – Tri-county WIB  
Kevin Lazor – CareerLink  
Carol Fry – ICTC  
Dave Frick – Commissioner  
Patricia Evanko – Commissioner  
Dana Henry – Chamber of Commerce

#### **Tri-County Meeting:**

##### *Legislative Committee*

The first meeting of this committee was held on Monday. The purpose was to provide a direction for the committee. Right now the members are keeping tabs on legislation that affects manufacturing and educating our colleagues on said information. The next meeting will be December 7<sup>th</sup> and if we have any questions or concerns, we are to bring them up to our representatives in the mean time.

##### *Sharing successes (website addition) and website layout*

This idea is still being debated among the three counties. The state has instructed us to work more regionally and less individually so there has been a change to our website. From now on, the main page will be the Tri-County site and the user can go to any of the 3 counties from this page.

#### **Social Networking:**

Mike used a projector to demonstrate how to use the social networking sites (Facebook and Twitter). If we have any news that we would like to share, we are to let Mike know so that he can post it on these sites.

#### **International Business Training:**

There were approximately 10 attendees for this seminar in which they found very informative. Mike will get Vicki's contact information if anyone would like to

use her as a contact. He also mentioned a website that holds up to date information on different country's cultures. The site is called culturegrams.com

### **Tooling U:**

Carol discussed tooling university and the benefits of this program. They have courses to train machinists and aspiring machinists. ICTC has a username and password for their machine which students use. If anyone would like a demonstration, we could organization a group to come in and take a look. There was discussion on holding a consortium meeting at ICTC to incorporate this demonstration into the meeting.

### **Economic Condition:**

Mike asked each company to give us an idea of how their company is doing in the current economic times. Elkin, HCA, Synergy, Quintech, Gorrell, and MGK all have noticed slight upswings in business. Dana mentioned a webinar on Marcellus Shale that was recently held in which the majority of companies also noted a more positive turn in the economy

### **Budget:**

There has been good news from the state. Because the funding was being cut in half, we weren't sure how much we would get or where it would apply. We applied for 265,000 for the Tri-county and were happy to hear that we were awarded 220,000.

### **ABLE Mtg:**

Eric Palmer from IUP talked about the upcoming Titan Competition in March. This is a game where the participants run a manufacturing competition. We discussed whether we would like to sponsor this competition.

### **Guest from United High School:**

The superintendent of United High School, Dave, joined us in our meeting today to discuss our needs as far as getting our word to students and what type of workers we need. We talked about needing skilled vs. unskilled individuals, certifications, education, and experience. Most companies described a need for candidates with experience, a good aptitude, the right attitude, but not necessarily certifications or degrees. Dave talked about the pressures the schools are facing from the department of education on getting the students to be college ready. Ken suggested a summer work program and it was noted that ICTC has a cooperative work program in place. Most companies expressed that they would be willing to participate in this type of program. Another important point that came up was the education on how to apply for jobs, how to dress for interviews, and the qualities companies are really looking for such as promptness. We asked Dave how we should get our message out. He suggested we attend the monthly superintendent meetings in the district and get to the source. Another crucial point was that we need a plan of action to present to these superintendents and schools.