

Indiana County Manufacturing Consortium July 20, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Mike Rempel - Gorell Enterprises
Ellen Starry - Gorell Enterprises
Nick Parchinsky – HMS
Nancy Saxman – Synergy
Frank Holuta – Elkin
Jim Cupp – Ardiem
Tom Petro – J.J. Kennedy
Dave Coleman – Cleveland Brothers

Kevin Lazor – Career Link
Dana Henry – Chamber
Dave Frick – Commissioner
Rod Ruddock – Commissioner
Patty Evanko – Commissioner
Dave Reed – State Representative
Jonathan Longwill – Dave Reed's office
Mary Yarnal – ICTC
Carol Frye – ICTC
Jessica Isso – WIB
Lori Harvey – WIB

Mike welcomed everyone

Mike indicated that Jodie Detwiler is no longer with Clark Metals, but Rob Clark indicated they plan to stay an active member as soon as they find a replacement

Funding and Grant updates – Lori Harvey

Lori indicated that future grants will require a 25% cash match in addition to the in-kind match

Butler did a career day for high schools and tech schools; program is being developed for creating posters, brochures and billboards

Career Gates is another initiative that is being worked on to create videos of companies in the area that are geared toward younger people to consider manufacturing careers

Mike explained the plans for our website development to be more interactive and send out notices to companies of updates and successes.

State budget success for training funds

We are in need of a Treasurer. Mike requested a volunteer.

Company Visits – Labor shortage:

Mike updated the group on his company visits. The main theme running through all was the labor shortage. We are at 4.6% unemployment in the county. 5% is often considered to be full employment. There is a meeting scheduled on August 10th at ARIN to present to the superintendents the need to encourage students to consider a career in manufacturing.

Mike read some comments from a letter from Rob Clark – Clark Metals – indicating that they have hired 57 people since January of 2006 and they are seeing the challenges of finding qualified people in the area.

Mike is concerned about the accuracy of the labor statistics that are provided. Would like to see some historic data going back to 1994 to see how the labor force and unemployment numbers have evolved over the years.

Mike indicated that it's important to get to the parents of the students to encourage them to advise their children of the opportunities in the area.

Next meeting – August 9, 2007 – this will be our first meeting of the new schedule of the second Thursday of the month.

Gorell will do the first company success presentation on our worker's comp. Incentive plan