

The Indiana County Center for Economic Operations
INDIANA COUNTY MANUFACTURING CONSORTIUM

Friday, March 17, 2006 @ 7:30 am
Hosted by: Indiana County CareerLink

Company Members Present:

Jim Cupp	-Ardiem Medical, Inc.	Nancy Saxman	-Synergy Contracting Services, LLC
Jodie Detwiler	-Clark Metal Products Co.	Dave Grube	-ElectroMec
Mike Rempel	-Gorell Enterprises, Inc.	Dennis McCracken	-Quintech Electronics
Mike Sugrue	-Winchester Industries	Rosanne Gundy	-Learning Sciences International

Resource Members Present:

Rodney Ruddock	-Indiana County Commissioners	Dale Bish	-Indiana County Career Link
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Call to Order:

Mike called the meeting to order at 7:40 am. Mike asked everyone for approval of the last meeting minutes, which were approved. He also welcomed Commissioner Ruddock to the meeting. Mike shared the unemployment statistics that he received from the Chamber. Unemployment has gone down to 4.5% in Indiana. In PA the percentage is 4.4 and in the US it is 4.7. If you would like to have copies of these statistics, you may contact Mike for them.

General Comments/Other Business:

Mike contacted Paul Anselmo from New Century Careers. The discussion included M2K, which is where New Century will screen employees for manufacturing companies. They have a placement rate of 80 percent. If the employees pass the probationary period there is a 1250 fee assessed. New Century Careers has two websites: <http://www.ncsquared.com> and <http://www.amcsquared.com>. Mike will be contacting New Century Careers to present at a future meeting.

Mike briefly discussed RFID tags. These are small tags that admit Radio frequencies that can track products and components. Mike will be having someone from Avery doing a presentation at Gorell's for them to have more information concerning this technology enhancement.

Website Update – Mike contacted Jared Kuchtea from Allegheny Graphics concerning the website. He also showed us the Armstrong Manufacturing Consortia website. The Indiana Manufacturing Consortia web site will include the members listed with a brief description of what the company does and contact information. There will be links to historic minutes, a calendar with the future meetings listed, a downloadable application, and resource partners listed too. Allegheny Graphics is already an approved vendor because Armstrong used them for their site. The funds for this will fall under the 45,000 grant that we had received for recruitment, web site development, brochure creation, and the training program to educate prospective employees about manufacturing.

Dale gave an update on funding opportunities available. Concerning Federal funding you can apply, but this funding still has not been reauthorized. State funding includes Employment Incentive Program (EIP) this has been reauthorized till 2009. The website for more information is <http://www.dli.state.pa.us> Click on Business and organizations then incentives then financial savings then Employment tax credits.

In addition, Dale stated that Bonita has resigned as the Site Administrator for the Indiana County Career Link.

Jodie shared some information concerning a program that if an employee is laid off and will be working for your company that you can contact Karen at 724-471-7220 for information on the program. Because there is some wage reimbursement available from the program.

Jodie gave a membership update that we have 8 paid members and the checking account balance is \$2857.

Jodie also shared some employee advertising avenues that she has recently tried, which included the wiup marquee, which costs about \$120 a week and includes 15 to 20 seconds every hour for a whole week. The other was monster, which is an online job advertising site; she paid about \$800 for 4 online postings that she can use within a year.

Tri-County Coordinator update – 20 resumes are being screened.

There was no update concerning the grant application.

Next Meeting:

Friday, April 21, 2006 at Gorell Enterprises, Inc. at 7:30 a.m. Gorell's address is 1480 Wayne Ave;
Indiana, PA 15701