

**Indiana County Manufacturing Consortium
Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2009**

Attendees: Carrie Roup – Clark Metal Products
Don Barris – Elkin
Ellen Starry – Gorell
Volker Valentin – Gorell
Mike Rempel – Gorell
Tom Petro – JJ Kennedy
Nancy Saxman – Synergy
Steve McPherson – MGK
Julie Miller – MGK
Dan Super – Homer City Automation

Herb Gleditsch – CareerLink
John Misthal – CareerLink
Mary Yarnal – ICTC
Carol Fry – ICTC
Mary Salony – TCWIB

TRAINING

Welding training

Steve McPherson passed Sam Ettaro's phone number to Lori Harvey to give to Kevin Trufta so that we could coordinate a promotional video on welding. Mary Salony stated that she had not gotten the number from Lori, but will check into this. Mary Yarnal and Carol Fry noted that ICTC also has some video footage that may be of use.

Shared Training

Mike indicated that the shared training for the tri-county area will be based on the following topics:

Best practices for going green

Quick & Easy Kaizen

- There was sufficient interest in holding a video conference at Gorell. Mike will be sending invitations out for 01-30-09 for this conference.

HR Law

Welding

Reimbursement Program

IUP MBA Certificate – A summary was sent out for those who were interested. A separate meeting will be set up to finalize the curriculum along with the date and time. Mary Salony will be sending out reimbursement applications to the interested parties. Companies can only be reimbursed for 75% of the cost and will have to pay the rest out of pocket.

WORFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Manufacturing Promotion Ideas

January EXPO 2009

Mike asked for more volunteers to staff the consortium's booth. Steve McPherson, Frank Holuta, and Carol Fry have all volunteered thus far. Mike also reminded everyone that if they would like to promote their individual company, to please bring in brochures or other information.

Promotion Ideas - ABEL

The consortium is in agreement that it would be beneficial to everyone to have a plan to get people, particularly students, interested in manufacturing. ABEL is very involved in and has an existing program like this which Mary Yarnal and Carol Fry discussed in more detail. Mary pointed out that ABEL is willing to do the leg work and build interest in manufacturing, but we must decide what tools that ABEL provides that we would like to use. She suggested job shadowing, educators in the workplace, industry tours, and/or events to highlight a specific operation or product.

Job shadowing

Students are assigned to a company to shadow for a day. They are then required to write a report for the other students on what they have learned about that industry. Companies can customize this program to demonstrate a specific operation or to include an exhibit to market a particular product.

Educators in the workplace

Teachers are assigned to a company and are to design a unit using the knowledge that they have gained about that industry to teach to their students. Companies can use this to promote their business by going into the classes and collaborating with the teacher during a presentation.

Industry Tours

Teachers sign up to visit companies after school for a presentation, tour, brochures, etc...

Tech shows

These are held in April at the ICTC. They are a one day event held in the evenings and are focused primarily on 9th grade students.

Mary noted that we can customize the ABEL programs to fit our specific promotional needs.

CONSORTIUM DEVELOPMENT

Marketing presentation by Dennis Ragan

The majority of the consortium is interested in having Dennis come to a meeting to discuss some marketing methods to promote our companies and products. The presentation is tentatively scheduled for the February meeting of the consortium.

Member Recruitment

The membership letters for 2009 have been mailed.