

Indiana County Manufacturing Consortium
Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2009

Attendees: Jim Cupp – Ardeim Medical
Frank Holuta – Elkin
Ellen Starry – Gorell
Mike Rempel – Gorell
Pam Gates – Penn Machine
Steve McPherson – MGK
Julie Miller – MGK
Nancy Saxman – Synergy
Bob Kovalcik – Twin Pines
Dave Coleman – Cleveland Brothers
Debbie Zundel – Cleveland Brothers
Dennis McCracken – Quintech
Brian Long – Breeze Industrial
Sean Gillespie – Breeze Industrial

Herb Gleditsch – CareerLink
Dana Henry – Chamber of Commerce
Mary Saloney – Tri-county WIB
Ken Raybuck – Tri-county WIB
Craig Volpe – ICTC
Dave Frick – Commissioner
Johanna Murphy – Mfg. Assist Center
Jerry Richardson – Planning and Development

New Coordinator

Mike introduced Ken Raybuck, who has replaced Lori Harvey as our new coordinator.

Unemployment Statistics

The unemployment rate for Indiana County is 6.6%, which is less than Pennsylvania at 7% and is below the US average of 7.6%. Butler county has a rate of 6.2% and Armstrong county has a rate of 8.7%.

Funding

We have received 65,000 in partnership funds to be split between the 3 counties. We have also received 117,000 of the 175,000 promised in training funds to be split between the 3 counties.

MBA Program

Paperwork for the MBA program reimbursement has been received.

Reimbursement Funding Applications

Dates for reimbursement of training are July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009. The reimbursement program does not include safety or basic training, it is for upper level training. This reimbursement can also be applied to employees that are enrolled in college courses.

Welding Video

Steve spoke with Kevin Trufta who wanted to know what type of message we wanted to convey in the welding video. He also gave Steve some prices for the video. A 30 second video would cost \$1000.00 and an 8 minute video would cost \$1250.00 per minute. Steve also talked to Dave Altroggo who provided us with some prices. With Dave, a 30 second video would cost \$1000.00 and an 8 minute video would cost around \$2000.00 – \$2500.00 for the entire 8 minutes. Steve asked the consortium a variety of questions including “who are we looking to present to?” and “what kind of format do we want?”, to find out what we envisioned the final product to be. Mike suggested holding a meeting with Craig Volpe (ICTC) and other companies interested to talk in more detail about pricing, content, etc.

PA Stimulus Grant Opportunity

This opportunity is to help displaced workers get back to work quickly. It makes funding available for training for time management, work readiness, OJT training, etc. We can ask for up to 150,000 to split between our 3 counties based on what businesses need.

Round table discussion

April 2nd in Harrisburg is a round table discussion on understanding the needs in manufacturing industries in PA.

Product Development

Following up from last meeting where we had a presentation by Tony Palimone, Mike asked how many companies were interested in this idea. Several companies noted their interest in helping develop the system.

Marketing Outreach

We discussed numerous ways to spend our funds to promote manufacturing and the consortium.

Job Fair

The job fair 2009 will be held on April 16th at the S&T arena. We still need volunteers to staff the ICMC booth so please e-mail Mike if you are available to do so. The consortium discussed and agreed upon sponsoring the job fair.

PFEW

It is \$525.00 to sponsor a student for the week.

Junior Achievement

Junior achievement is looking for a speaker to talk about manufacturing on 06/22/09. They also are in need of a company to host a site visit on 06/25/09. Any interested parties are to let Mike know.

Industry Tours

ABEL will provide funding for any costs of the tour.

Billboards

Steve asked Kevin Trufta about a billboard to promote manufacturing. Kevin priced it at \$200 to make the 8' x 30' sign and about \$900 - \$950 per month to display our billboard. Steve will check into some other prices.

Newspaper

Mike suggested placing ads in the newspaper right before and after the job fair.

Radio

We are currently running ads on CAT country. If we would like to utilize this advertisement avenue more, we could place ads during pirates games, high school sports, etc... Mike received some pricing and opportunities from Renda broadcasting for us to consider.

Network Gathering

A gathering was suggested to network with other companies and professionals in manufacturing. It was suggested to have someone from the commissioners' office or the chamber of commerce speak on the current and future situations for manufacturers.

Mike suggested that the bulk of our meeting next month be to discuss the spending of our funds for marketing outreach.

Miscellaneous

Everyone was reminded to log in their in kind hours.