

BUTLER COUNTY MANUFACTURING CONSORTIUM

Minutes for August 19, 2009

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Jim Ferguson welcomed everyone, immediately followed by introductions.
- B. Copies of the May '09 minutes were distributed prior via email.
- C. Special guest speakers: Sherri Mack from BC3; and Stephen Catt and Dr. Ken Borland

II. GUEST SPEAKER

- A. **Sherri Mack**, from BC3 did a PowerPoint presentation summary of this year's Kids On Campus camps.
 - 1. Gadgets and Gizmos: 11 kids participated. Worked in pairs using Knex Kits to build dune buggies, helicopters, a Ferris wheel, and building bridges and conducting stress tests on them. Also built a small terrarium out of wood, for which they discussed a fictitious business plan including cost of materials, pay, etc.. Built them and took home.
 - 2. Get Wired: 7 kids participated in this camp focusing on electricity, motors and lights. Purchased 7 circuit kits and conducted experiments using solar panels, batteries, and lights. Kids had to bring in a "house" made out of a box and they ran wiring to light the rooms. Some kids even added a ceiling fan and ran power to activate the fan along with the lights!
 - 3. Mindstorm Kits were also purchased and will be used in the Fall 2009 kids class as well as next summer's Gadgets and Gizmos.
- B. **Dr. Ken Borland and Stephen Catt** discuss Northwest PA STEM Initiative
 - 1. PA was 1 of 6 states to receive a \$500,000 National Governor's Association grant, plus a Team PA Foundation matching grant of \$500,000 for to improve STEM education and increase the number of people, especially females and minorities, going into STEM related careers.
 - 2. Progress to date includes:
 - a) Gap Analysis Report; Asset Mapping of practices and resources; Regional Compact (where companies sign on to be involved) and Regional Outreach.
 - b) 1st Annual STEM Conference, held April 21, 09 in Erie. (possibly June 2010 for next conference)
 - c) Establishing long-term Goals, including a NW PA STEM Career Institute a STEM virtual high school.
 - 3. WHY we need STEM education:
 - a) The United States ranks 25th in Math and 21st in Science
 - b) Innovation will be the single most important factor
 - c) 9% growth in STEM related jobs is predicted
 - 4. BC3MC members gave suggestions for growing the STEM initiative, including:
 - a) Focusing on Community Education Centers -north of I-80, there are no community colleges
 - b) Challenge is for high schools to see need for manufacturing to be in schools
 - c) Need more public awareness so people see manufacturing and become part of their thought process
 - d) Continue to pursue Educator in Workforce
 - e) Science /math teacher shortage
 - f) Ongoing Professional Development of teachers to stay up to date on emerging technologies
 - g) E-mentoring programs, real company tours, and Career Cruising Network
 - h) Establish minimum math criteria
 - i) Consider non-traditional groups like Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H clubs, to reach more rural areas
 - 5. For more information: www.pasteminitiative.org and www.nwpastem.wikispaces.org

III. TRAINING

A. Shared Training –

- 1. Ken passed out a summary of the Tri-County training needs survey (conducted back in March/April). There were 20 respondents. Primary needs indicated included supervisory areas, communication skills, inventory control, and strategic business planning.

2. Trying to get one more follow up date for each shared training class offered this summer. HR and the Strategic Business class were both very popular.
3. Innovation Classes being discussed for current year

B. **WEDNet** – no report.

IV. GRANT UPDATE

- A. **State Budget** - Ken stated that we are still waiting to hear about the state budget and funding. Right now, industry partnerships are not in the budget as it stands.
\$44,500 received for Butler Co. Tuition Reimbursement last year
\$43,000 shared training money received for Tri-County last year

B. **Tri-County Regional Event** – July 29, 2009 held at the Kittanning Belmont.

1. The event was a good event, hosting 3 speakers including Tom Palisin, the PA Manufacturing Ombudsmen. Will have him as a guest speaker at a future BCMC meeting. The event was well received and so it was agreed to plan for 2nd annual event and how we can make it even better.
2. One of the suggestions that came out of the event was the need to have a legislative committee. Jim asked for 2 volunteers from the Butler Co. Consortium. (*see notes below under "Legislation Issues"*)

V. OUTREACH TO SCHOOLS

- A. **Career Cruising Network** – Ken has been in touch with Cindy Wong from Career Cruising. Would cost \$33,000 for Tri-County licenses to expand the program to all 3 counties plus tie in to local businesses (CCN). Currently Armstrong County has 1 school using Career Cruising; Indiana has "a few"; and Butler has all schools using Career Cruising.
- B. **Educator in the Workplace** – no report.
- C. **Kids on Campus /BC3** – *see report from Sherri Mack (above)*
- D. **Get FIT (Futures In Technology)** – no report.

VI. BCMC MEDIA / ADVERTISING

- A. **BCMC Website** – currently looking into cost of a legislators contact page. Waiting for quote.
- B. **Butler Business Matters** – no report.

VII. BCMC GROWTH

- A. **What can BCMC do to grow the Consortium** – want to make it worthwhile to come to meetings and become involved with BCMC. Suggestions on how to attract new members?
1. Happy Hours invitation event? – networking, info & benefits of BCMC, with wine tasting from local wineries. Location: Lisa C. suggested keeping it to Butler city area. Time 4-6 pm? No date set yet.
 2. Any other ideas, suggestions, etc. please email to Jim or Kristen.
- B. **Clearview Mall Expo Event** – November 6th & 7th. – Must keep manufacturing in the public eye.
1. Costs: \$1500 to rent center court for both days ; \$950 for Carnegie Science Center "make and takes for both days (already paid for from last year's grant). STEM activity to introduce kids to science.
 2. That night is "Kids Night" at the mall as well. Should tie in well with our STEM kid centered activities
 3. Advertising: email, and Butler Business Matters, but it was also suggested we mail flyers to manufacturers advertising the event to gain more participation.
- C. **Business Partners** – Ken received a phone call from a union representative asking about joining or participating in the BCMC (as a business partner). Jim asked the members what they thought. General consensus was that we need to know the union's purpose in wanting to be involved.

VIII. LEGISLATION ISSUES

A. Tri-County WIB will be forming a Legislative Committee.

1. Being a 501 (c) 6 allows us to be active in this legislative process.
2. Neil Ashbaugh encouraged everyone that if this region is going to survive, we need to be in front of our representatives BEFORE the bills get passed. We MUST get involved in the discussions and dialog with our government representatives. If interested in joining the legislative committee, please contact Neil.
3. Jim stated that we will try to discuss some aspect of law/legislation at each meeting.
4. Looking into developing a legislators contact page for the BCMC website. Waiting for quote from MediaFrogg.
5. Anita Orozco shared that SHRM (Society of Human Resources Management), has an excellent division called "Legislative Voice" that assists members in knowing what is going on with legislative issues affecting business. Has a page there to contact your legislator, form letter, etc... www.shrm.org

B. **Executive Order 13496** was signed in January 2009. Congress is now proposing regulations to carry out this executive order. If companies deal with government contracts, the executive order mandates posting to inform employees of their right to organize. Jim has copies of the executive order available for anyone interested.

C. Senators Casey and Specter have both stated they are in favor of border taxes, which support Fair Trade and is good for manufacturing.

D. New OSHA Director has a big emphasis on regulation and inspection.

IX. UPCOMING EVENTS / MISCELLANEOUS

A. **September 21st** - Butler Chamber of Commerce will be holding a "Business Summit" on September 21st at the Marriott in Cranberry. Invitation only. If interested, need to contact the Chamber.

B. **October 7th** - PA CareerLink will be hosting their fall Job Fair on October 7th from 9:30 am – 1:00 pm. Also, Butler's CareerLink now has a 40" monitor in their waiting area. Peggy is requesting if companies would like to share any PR slides or CD's about their company to get them to her. Is a great way to let job seekers know what you do.

C. **November 6th & 7th** – Manufacturing Expo at Clearview Mall. More info to come.

Next meeting will be Wednesday September 16th at 8:00 am – at BC3's Cranberry Campus location.

TRI-COUNTY MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP TRAINING NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY 2009

20 COMPANIES RESPONDED, SUBJECTS HIGHLIGHTED INDICATE AT LEAST ½ SURVEYED IDENTIFIED THE NEED

TRAINING PRIORITIES BY CATEGORY

NUMBER OF COMPANIES DESIRING HIGH PRIORITIES

Supervisory skills would you be interested in training within your company

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Basic Supervisory | 12 |
| Leadership | 10 |
| Employee Motivation | 10 |

Communication skills would you be interested in training within your company

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Communication Styles | 12 |
| Active Listening | 11 |

Specific Manufacturing skills would you be interested in training within your company

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Inventory Control | 7 |
| <u>Record Keeping/Documentation</u> | <u>+3 (combined)</u> 10 |

*note, only 3 responded to a training need for welding

Organization skills would you be interested in training within your company

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Strategic Business Planning | 11 |
| Continuous Quality Improvement | 10 |

Health & Safety Skills would you be interested in training within your company

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Stress Management | 10 |
|--------------------------|-----------|

Training Preferences - Respondents prioritized training to take place by the following methods:

Classroom Instruction and **On Site** Training were almost equally split: 12 for classroom & 11 for onsite

On the Job Training 10 respondents

Video/Satellite and/or **Distance Led** learning garnered support of 12 companies

Afternoon was preferred more than morning, 10 for pm, 6 for am

(Only 1 company noted evening)