

BUTLER COUNTY MANUFACTURING CONSORTIUM

Minutes for May 20, 2009

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Co-Chair Neil Ashbaugh welcomed everyone, immediately followed by introductions. Chairperson Jim Ferguson is out on leave.
- B. Copies of the April '09 minutes were distributed.
- C. Special guest speaker: Denny Dailey, Associate Professor at Butler County Community College.

II. GUEST SPEAKER

- A. Denton Dailey, Associate Professor at BC3 spoke about their new Robotics Degree Program
 - 1. Robotics Associate degree, starting fall 2009 was developed in conjunction with CMU and CAL U to reach out to community college level.
 - 2. The reason for creating such a program is because fewer and fewer people are enrolling in electronic/tech programs that deal with things like microprocessors, solid modeling, electronics, & CAD.
 - 3. Denny handed out the curriculum outline for the Robotics Tech Associate degree and discussed one of the highlights of the program, the second year Capstone project. Current capstone project involves a UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle), but Denny welcomes other industry-driven ideas for future capstone projects.
 - 4. Currently working on an articulation agreements with :
 - a) California University which would articulate to their Manufacturing Technology and/or Robotics Engineering programs
 - b) Robert Morris University which would articulate to their Manufacturing Engineering program (would require student to take 3 years at BC3 and 2 years at RMU)
 - c) in discussion with Youngstown State Univ. and Penn State Erie campus
 - 5. Robotics Intelligent System Certification – although it is not finalized and not being offered yet, BC3 is working on a shorter course, covering the basics of robotics that could be very helpful for incumbent workers who want to ramp up their skills.
 - 6. Denny reported that there are 16 freshmen enrolled for fall 2009 programs – 8 in the electronics and 8 in the robotics program so far. Dr. Stephen Catt, from BC3 part of program to begin marketing the program.
 - 7. What are industry's interests? Carnegie Mellon University is working on industry needs & interest survey.

III. TRAINING

- A. Shared Training –
 - 1. Lisa Campbell, BC3, shared information on the Strategic Business Communication Competitiveness Training class. As it is originally created, it will tentatively be 10 3-hour sessions held at BC3, or a more centralized location depending upon companies enrolling. Lisa asked manufacturers which is better, fewer days with longer hours or more days with shorter hours. Bruce Curry and Anita Orozco commented that 4 10 hour days works well. Dates will be sent out soon. Sign up with Lisa. This course is geared towards supervisor/higher level.
 - 2. Ken Raybuck said the classes must begin before the end of June. Companies need to determine who they are sending. Classes will be:
 - * Strategic Business Communication Competitiveness
 - * Going Green, which will have 2 different topic focuses: Building Green Products and Evaluating Green in Industry and Manufacturing. Courses will be held at Armstrong Educational Trust
 - * HR Policy & Law Training – held at Armstrong Educational Trust
- B. WEDNet – Lisa Campbell has applications for the 2009-2010 year. Please see Lisa for more information on this free training money.

IV. GRANT UPDATE

- A. Ken passed out handout on budget update.

Received a total to date \$145,417

- 5% administration costs

\$ 138,147 available for training

\$7,303.02 additional training dollars still available.

- B. Budget for 09-10 needs to be submitted by mid-June. WIB received American Reinvestment and Recovery Act training dollars for dislocated workers. Anticipating fewer dollars for 09-10 grant year.

1. Marketing & Outreach – at least \$4500 for Butler Co.

2. Butler Business Matters – for 6 months. Cost is \$440/month. 6 months would be \$2640

3. Possibly spend money on science/STEM-related kits to interact and engage kids at Expos and school career fairs. Anita Orozco mentioned that the Carnegie Science Center has a traveling program. Kristen will look into this further.

- C. Tri-County WIB is in consideration for a \$25,000 capacity building grant request entitled “Advancing Workers through Robotics Training”. This grant will target developing relevant job skills for emerging robotics-related jobs in our area. We sent out an email regarding this and there are 3 key questions that WIB needs your input. Please provide any feedback to Kristen or Mary Salony.

V. OUTREACH TO SCHOOLS

- A. **Job Shadow Program** – no report.

- B. **Educator in the Workplace**

1. Through the Educator & Employer Group, applications went out to all the schools. Only 3-4 applications were submitted. Offering a \$250.00 stipend to participating teachers.

2. Denny Dailey shared that he is offering a June workshop at BC3 for teachers on embedded electronics and he has 20 teachers signed up to participate. Teachers will receive \$300 stipend and ACT 48 credits.

- C. **School visitations** – no report.

- D. **Kids on Campus /BC3** – no report.

- E. **Get FIT (Futures In Technology)** – no report.

VI. BCMC MEDIA / ADVERTISING

- A. **BCMC Website** – no report.

- B. **Radio** – no report.

- C. **Butler Business Matters** – no June ad, since there will be no meeting.

VII. BCMC GROWTH

A. **What can BCMC do to grow the Consortium** – continuing to look into a fall Manufacturing Expo. Even though most manufacturers are not hiring, we need to continue to promote manufacturing to the public.

B. **Developing more regional partnerships** – no report.

C. **Business Partners/ buying power** – voted on distinction between Business Partners (for profit) and Resource Partners (non-profit). Original proposal was to charge Business Partners \$100. Anita Orozco made a motion to charge Business Partners \$250. Members voted and approved.

VIII. LEGISLATION ISSUES

- A. **Employee Free Choice Act** – Jason Altmire is a co-sponsor, along with Murtha, of the Employee Free Choice Act. Need to get in touch with your state and federal legislators and communicate with them on upcoming legislative issues that could impact manufacturing.

- B. **228 Regional Corridor Alliance** – passed out more information on this group, including a public announcement of a town hall meeting to discuss. Meeting will be held Thursday May 21 at Mars High School from 7:00 – 8:30 pm.

IX. UPCOMING EVENTS / MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Tri County Conference Planning- state wants more regional focus
 - 1. One of the featured guest speakers will be Tom Palisin – PA Manufacturing Ombudsman. Tentatively looking at dates the end of July. Location of event still needs to be determined. Watch for announcement. One of the topics to be addressed will be use of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funds.
- B. ARMTech- to be held August 19,20,21 in Kittanning.
- C. Tim Snapp from DeVry University shared that they are now offering both a Bachelors and Masters degree in Project Management.

*Next meeting will be **Wednesday August 19th** at
at 8:00 am – at the Butler CDC.*