

# **BUTLER COUNTY MANUFACTURING CONSORTIUM**

## **Minutes for August 22, 2007**

### **Present**

Doug Bartosh / Unimach Mfg  
Chuck Guiste, Jim Ferguson, Kristen Bastaja / Penn United Technologies  
Lisa Campbell / BC3  
Heather Swiergol / Butler Co. Area Vo-Tech  
Mary Salony, Lori Harvey /Tri-County WIB  
Kelly Engelber / MarketSphere  
Nadine Tripodi / Butler Technologies  
Tim Vogel / AK Steel  
Michael Floyd / Belleville Intl.  
Karma Edwards / MAC, Univer. Of Pittsburgh  
George Wochley / GCL Intl.  
Don Neff, Rick Green / Eagle Rubber  
Susie Tack Beardsley / Quality Life Services  
Lori Pinkerton-Foust / Butler Technologies  
Terry Lee Bowser / CID Associates  
John Reid / II-VI  
Clayton Woodward / Woodward Inc.  
Vicki Senko, Diana McCormish / JSP  
Margie Woods, Elnora Eubanks, Jen Moore / MSA  
Jen Van Gorder, ATS Inc.  
Scott Dietz / Catalyst Connection

Jim Ferguson welcomed everyone to the catered lunch followed by introductions. Susie Tack Beardsley from the Butler Health Care Consortium also joined us. We hope to continue to have the Manufacturing and Health Care Consortiums work together to promote the various careers offered in these fields.

Everyone enjoyed a catered lunch by Chef John LeFevre. The meeting began at 12:55 pm. The minutes for the July 2007 meeting were approved as written. Doug Bartosh reported that we have \$1853 in the Treasury.

### **Previous Business**

1. **Training Needs Survey**
  - \* Lori Harvey spoke about the training survey that has been sent out. Quite a few surveys have been completed and turned in and there is still time to complete if you have not already. We are conducting the training survey so the grant requests can be tailored to meet specific training needs.
  - \* MarketSphere will be gathering all the submitted training needs and will work to develop a curriculum for incumbent and new employees. Kelly Humperdink from MarketSphere, shared what MarketSphere will be doing. They will use the results of the training survey to create a curriculum for training in the following areas: Health and Safety, Supervisor Training, Customer Service and Manufacturing Systems. Training will be for improving the skills of incoming workers and incumbent workers. They are at the content research stage. Kelly encouraged anyone who has questions or feedback to please speak with her.

2. **WEDnet**  
 \*Lisa Campbell shared that the deadline for individual companies has past, however the Consortium can still apply. Lisa hosted a meeting at BC3 for consortium training needs, however attendance was poor.  
 \* If a company has already submitted a WEDnet application for their specific training needs, a company can also participate as part of the consortium. However there is still a \$450 max per person. WEDnet will also use results of the training survey to determine grant application needs. In summary, if anyone has training needs, please communicate them and will try to meet those needs using the grant funds available.
3. **Educational Campaigns**  
 \* *Dream it Do it* - focuses is on grades 9 –12. It is an edgy/hip campaign to target h.s. students and make them aware of manufacturing careers. Minimum investment to start campaign is \$50,000. Northeast Ohio has \$400,000 + a local tv. Channel has contributed in-kind funds for their Dream It Do It campaign. We will need to solicit cash contributions from companies or foundations. Stressed this is not a quick fix but is more focused on long-term needs.
4. **Grants** : will target training needs, “Dream It Do It” campaign and “Nuts, Bolts, and Thingamajigs”. Also are using grant monies to develop and produce “Manufacturing your Career” which will be a Tri-fold brochure for the Tri-County. Lori passed out an example draft. Example needs reviewed for content. 9/1 deadline on grant app.

#### **Vision Planning / ‘07**

1. **BHAG:**Goal is to pursue having a Career Fair in all High Schools in Butler Co. this year.  
 \* Jim has spoken with Mike King from Knoch about them hosting the first one. Knoch has received a \$70,000 grant to help with educational/career planning.  
 \* Would like to invite principals, and guidance counselors to our next BCMC meeting at Conley’s.  
 \* Will want to have tri-fold brochures ready to pass out at hs. career fairs.
2. **Pittsburgh STEM Conference**  
 \* Kristen attended the conference which focused on the need to get students more involved in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math classes/careers. The need for this education is apparent: compared to other countries, US ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in math and 19<sup>th</sup> in Science.  
 \* Governors initiatives :  
 a) “Asset” curriculum which teaches elementary students science through hands-on projects. Curriculum is currently being used in Slippery Rock and South Butler School districts.  
 b) PA is 1 of 6 states to receive a \$500,000 grant to create 5 STEM centers throughout the state. There will be a center in Southwestern PA, however the exact location has not been selected yet.  
 \* Existing programs that encourage STEM classes: BotsIQ (goal to have 32 teams for 2008), FIRST Robotics, Project Lead the Way, and Adventures in Technology.
3. **BC3’s Robotics Conference for Educators**  
 \* Steven Catt from BC3 works closely with 4 year universities and the 2+2+2 plans. Perhaps could bring him in as a future speaker. Jim summarized that our goals is to reach students with curriculum at every educational level, from elementary to jr. high, to high school through college.
4. **Precision Metalforming Assoc. Educational Foundation** – Chuck Guiste is a member of their board and stated that PMAEF is a supporter of “Dream It Do It” and has grant money to give to educational programs like that and “Nuts, Bolts, and Thingamajigs” Visit their website at [www.pmaef.org](http://www.pmaef.org)  
 October is their next deadline for grant application submission.

## Image

1. **Billboards** – 5 billboards are up. Flyers have been created with the same image on and an explanation of why the campaign is occurring. Jim has been in contact with Butler Eagle, who said they will do an article on the campaign; Bruce Curry from PennaFlame said they can help us with a postcard campaign; and Neil Ashbaugh will talk to his contact at the radio station. Jim also contacted Ibistech and we can purchase 100% cotton, made in USA t-shirts which would say, "Proud to be a Butler County Manufacturer". Will try to have an example of shirts at next meeting.

## Growth

1. Butler County Manufacturing Consortium now represents 4216 employees. Taking the average mfg salary as \$46,000 that equates to almost \$20 million into Butler County economy. As we continue to grow, we need to stress the positive impact manufacturing has on our county.
2. Women in STEM Career – Women are poorly under-represented in careers involving Science, Tech., Engineering and Math. To encourage young girls to consider careers in these areas, need to provide them with positive role models of successful women in STEM professions.
  - a) Robert Morris University will be sponsoring Expanding Your Horizons: Women in STEM conference to introduce girls (6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grade students) to these careers and introduce them to women already working in these rewarding and challenging professions. More information is available on the RMU handout.
  - b) Could we use the BCMC website as an opportunity to spotlight women in our companies who would be interested in providing a little bio about their background and jobs to inspire others? Chuck shared that the spotlight section could possibly include both women and men as examples of local success stories in manufacturing.
3. Jim also suggested using the website as a News outlet to share any and all good news that is happening in our companies.
4. Slippery Rock University – Jim has been in touch with SRU about their Safety Program and Computer Science departments and are planning for representatives to attend the next BCMC meeting at Conley's.

## What's In It For Manufacturing

1. Medrad will be moving into the Victory Road, Saxonburg industry park this fall/winter.
2. Next meeting will be another lunch meeting at Conley's. Plan to invite school superintendents, guidance counselors and principals to discuss how industry and education can work together. The BCMC tries to keep dues low so it is not a burden to the smaller companies. In order to help off-set the cost of the lunch, Jim asked if any member or partner would be interested in helping to sponsor the luncheon.

3. Guest spotlights:
  - a) **MSA** – currently has 2 manufacturing sites in Butler Co. ( Evans City and Cranberry) They will be slowly phasing out site in Evans City by 2008.
  - b) **ArmCo.**- cross-training and apprenticeship programs are going strong. Lots of positive changes are happening.
  - c) **Bellville** – opened Cunningham facility in January '07. Looking for 3 new employees.
  - d) **II-VI** – expanding worldwide. Opened a facility in the Philippines to extract raw materials needed for their industry.
  - e) **Succop Conservancy** – Carrie Kaufman and Nancy Lowry provided a tour of the building and grounds for anyone interested. Conservancy also offers the Heritage School which provides classes in folk arts such as blacksmithing, woodworking and quilting. The Conservancy can be used for a variety of meeting needs, from business gatherings to social events.
4. Distributed new updated Members/Partners directory.
5. In-kind forms were distributed/collected.

**Next meeting will be Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, for a lunch meeting at the Conley's Inn. We will be inviting education professionals to attend as well so we can target achieving one of our BHAG's!!**  
**Watch for your e-mail for more details!!!**