

# **BUTLER COUNTY MANUFACTURING CONSORTIUM**

## **Minutes for August 27, 2008**

Jim Ferguson welcomed everyone, immediately followed by introductions. Copies of the July '08 minutes were emailed prior and approved as written.

Doug Bartosh reported we have \$2403.00 remaining in the Treasury. Recent payments made include \$264.00 to Conley's Inn and \$71.75 to Media Frogg.

### **Previous Business**

#### **1. Training**

A. October 29 will be a shared training on the topic of Advanced Human Resources Law. It will be a full day seminar at the Armstrong Educational Trust in Kittanning. Will include updates in Workers Compensation, harassment & more. If interested, please contact Lori Harvey. This is a FREE training opportunity!

B. BC3 – Lisa Campbell shared that if your company is on an “off year” from WedNet, or has a training need that is not covered by WedNet, the Tuition Reimbursement program could be used instead to help pay for the training. Also, they should be hearing what the WedNet awards are very soon. Lisa also shared that now is the time to enroll for computer training at BC3 (Lisa handed out schedule of MS Office 2007 training.)

C. DeVry University – Tim Snapp shared that all programs for a Masters program are available on-line. Can defer billing until AFTER a student completes class. Fox News surveyed on-line classes and rated DeVry #1.

D. If you have an IT department within your company, they are invited to attend an IT consortium meeting to learn more. There are IT training monies available through their consortium as well.

#### **2. 2008-2009 Grant Planning**

A. The 2008-2009 grant was submitted 6/28/08. Requested for industry partnerships.

B. 25% cash match will be required for shared training expenses this year. Shared training topics will include customer service, HR, Going Green, Hiring, and Team Building.

C. Will also continue the Tuition Reimbursement training program.

D. Requested \$50,000 for a welding initiative.

E. Textbooks for Manufacturing Class in the high school. Knock is in discussion for a strike. If that happens, may consider pushing Manufacturing Class to Spring. Have talked about a scholarship from BCMC and MEDRAD has put together an excellent criteria for a scholarship application form. Let's continue to discuss.

F. Educators in the Workplace – need to focus on getting teachers and guidance counselors into our companies. RECP monies are available to help with an Educator in the Workplace program.

G. High School Connection – want to continue to pursue talking with high school students about careers in manufacturing. Jim asked members to consider would smaller classroom presentations perhaps work better than the larger career days? Let's think about what kind of presentations we want to do for this upcoming school year. Members were also encouraged to perhaps have some kind of presence at the Vo-Tech information nights.

H. STEM – Northwest region submitted their plan, including their executive leadership plan. Although our money will come from the Northwest center, we can participate in either the northwest or southwest centers.

\* BC3 will be a part of the southwest STEM center. The STEM Coordinator may be contacting your company regarding a survey related to funds for workforce training.

I. Career Cruising – Each school in Butler County received Career Cruising. They are working on another branch of Career Cruising which is Career Cruising Network, which helps students to then connect with local companies in their area providing careers of interest to the students. A tentative cost of Career Cruising Network software is \$18,000. Cindy Wong from Career Cruising will be a guest speaker at our next BCMC meeting in September to share more.

J. Job Shadowing – (FulPhil your future) – National Job shadow day is ground hog day, which will be 2/2/09. RCEP monies are available to promote job shadowing as well.

### **Image**

1. **BCMC Website** – Need logos from each company to put on our website. Please email Veronica at Media Frogg. Still have goal of creating a training page to be able to access grant information, forms for reimbursement, etc...

2. **Video** - If anyone has not seen “Career Gates” or “Go for the Gold” they both promote manufacturing for young people.

3. **Radio** - still going on. If interested, contact Jim or Neil. Jim will be the guest on the next 9/8 radio broadcast.

4. **Butler Business Matters** – the BCMC is still advertising on a monthly basis. If you have any ideas for future ads, please share with Jim. (6500 copies are mailed out the business monthly across our country.

5. **BCMC Advanced Manufacturing Career Fair** – because Jim only received 1 reply (which was not interested), we will not pursue hosting our own Career Fair. However, the PA CareerLink will be hosting a Career Fair October 9<sup>th</sup> at the Butler Days Inn. Manufacturing and Health Care will be showcased in a separate room. Please contact Peggy Weckerly if you would like to participate.

### **Growth**

1. Non profit status – still

### **Current / New Business**

1. Need ideas for speakers. It was suggested that perhaps we have them for each meeting and then have a speaker which coordinates with the theme. Suggestions from the previous meeting included great ideas like a trainer or purchase of capital expenditures or more information on government regulations.

2. Also suggested spotlighting a company every month like we used to do.

3. Dave Frengel, Director of Government Affairs for Penn United spoke regarding the Coalition for Prosperous America. He asked the BCMC to adopt a resolution on a better trade strategy for the U.S. Dave passed out a statement regarding the resolution and asked if our Consortium would be willing to add our name to it. Members present felt we did not know enough about the details regarding the resolution versus current trade practices to make a commitment at this time. For more information, please visit [www.prosperousamerica.org](http://www.prosperousamerica.org). Would anyone be interested in joining a small sub-committee to learn more and make a recommendation to the BCMC?

**What's In It For Manufacturing**

1. If you have an IT department within your company, they are welcome to attend and join the Technology Consortium. There is IT training monies available through them as well.
2. Shared webinars or audio conferences – Chuck Guiste, from Penn United suggested LIGHT could host a webinar or audio conference and members could attend. It could help defray the cost for all participating.

**Next meeting will be *Wednesday September 24<sup>th</sup>*,  
8:00am at the CDC of Butler.**