

# BUTLER MANUFACTURING CONSORTIUM

February 21, 2006

## MINUTES

### *Present:*

Jim Ferguson – Penn United Technology

Terri Bowser – CID Associates

Mike Bartlett – Bear Metallurgical

Doug Bartosh – Unimach Manufacturing

David Fair – Applied Test Systems

Scott Dietz – Catalyst Connection

Mary Salony – TCWIB

Peggy Weckerly – Butler County CareerLink

Minutes of the February 1, 2006, meeting were reviewed by the group and approved.

### *Catalyst Connection*

Scott Dietz is Project Manager for the Workforce Education and Development Programs of Catalyst Connection, which has existed about 20 years. With a focus on helping, their purpose is to have companies grow and succeed in PA. They work with over 65 two-and four-year colleges and more than 35 high schools in Southwestern PA on internships and career awareness workshops. Sponsoring *Career Centers* on their website ([www.catalystconnection.org](http://www.catalystconnection.org)), they have about 1300 jobs from project manager to marketing and finance. This enables people outside the area to learn of and apply for local positions also. They can help with workforce related issues including developing a talent pool. Their key program is “*Adventures in Technology*” which creates an awareness that manufacturing is not what it used to be and is geared to high school students who work on real world projects with hands on experience. A total of 25 student teams (8 people per team) are matched to area companies. Students investigate the company website and develop their projects from that. At the end they provide a formal presentation and showcase projects which can be shared with other teams. They have 3 North Hills schools which need company matches now in case your company is interested! Funded through Dept. of Labor to focus on manufacturing, this one served as a pilot in PA. Job Fairs include *March 22 Hire Up* for experienced professionals ready to move up the ladder. @Pgh. *Café 2006* attracts college students who meet regional professionals in an informal and interactive setting. (Attached is Scott’s e-mail with details!).

The *Pittsburgh Technology Council* [www.pghtech.org](http://www.pghtech.org) has 1300 companies with Catalyst Connection serving as their mouthpiece. Most of their funding is from grants, and there is a membership fee. Mike uses this and says that the resumes and job postings help Bear Metallurgical. It does on-site training on lean mfg, Six Sigma, etc. Their consultants look at new things in a real world approach to create programs as needed. They distribute to schools 2100 computers refurbished by students trained at the YMCA. Impacting K-12, they target sophomores and juniors and work towards internships that can lead to full time positions. Doug said that Unimach hosted 43 fifth graders on a tour of his company and was “astounded at the questions about computers”. The Council helps match interns and has 150-200 internship positions posted with technology the most in demand and marketing the second. They send e-mail blasts to all schools alerting them to their postings. Jim commented on the challenge of getting into high schools. Mary and Peggy spoke of their February meeting with local guidance counselors and the building blocks that are being formed to encourage communication between the schools and the CareerLink – which in turn would benefit the Manufacturing Consortium.

### ***Local Occupational Wages***

Some discussion centered on the problem of securing current information on county manufacturing wages, etc. Peggy urged everyone to become familiar with [www.paworkstats.state.pa.us](http://www.paworkstats.state.pa.us) the website to access all state related statistics. Developed and maintained by the Center for Workforce Information and Analysis, the site has current wage information for each county in addition to a wealth of other statistical information and resources.

### ***Clearview Mall Manufacturing Showcase***

Peggy has contacted the mall to confirm an available weekend, preferably May 5-6-7 which is NAM week, during which local manufacturers can showcase their companies for the weekend with the cost possibly covered through the Consortium Marketing Grant. Catalyst Connection will promote this also and place it on their website. Peggy is also working with the Butler Eagle to develop special advertising and an article highlighting this event. Before the next meeting, the CareerLink will survey area manufacturers to determine interest and availability for the weekend that is confirmed. Jim said Penn United’s experience in being there for a weekend has been very positive with adequate time to talk with people and answer questions, as opposed to job fairs where people get backed up and there is little chance for a conversation. Peggy confirmed that April 6<sup>th</sup>, the CareerLink and PHEAA will sponsor the “Spring into Success” Job Fair and Career Event at the Butler Days Inn, at which the group today feels manufacturers should be placed in a general area together to further emphasize manufacturing.

### ***Consortium Membership***

Through a unanimous vote, the group decided that they will assess a ***\$100 annual membership fee***. All manufacturers will be welcome at meetings and events, but those who are members will have discounted rates and will have a vote on the use of grant monies and exclusive access to them.

### ***Website for Butler County Manufacturing Consortium***

Armstrong already has their website [www.armstrongmfg.org](http://www.armstrongmfg.org) and is asking Butler and Indiana to follow suit, using Allegheny Graphics. The charge is minimal and paid for through the grant. The group agreed to have the website rep attend the next meeting to help formulate the content of the Butler website.

***Next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 29th at 7:30 AM at the CareerLink. (This is a change from the meeting!) NOTE: Jim has asked that each company be prepared to highlight what they make and where it goes – show and tell!***

Mkw

### **From Scott Dietz, Catalyst Connection:**

As I mentioned at the meeting yesterday, there are two job fairs coming up that I wanted to make you aware of so that you might be able to promote them in your area. The @pgh.cafe job fair is open to anyone currently enrolled in college. Internship and full-time opportunities will be available at this event and currently there are 33 employers registered.

The Hire UP job fair is for seasoned professionals and might be a better match for those with whom you work. There is no cost for job seekers to attend either event. Feel free to also mention the job fairs to any companies in Butler that might be interested. Please let me know if you have any questions.

### **@pgh.café 2006**

Not your typical job fair, @pgh.café is an annual event where college students can meet regional professionals in an informal and interactive setting. Dress casually, enjoy complimentary refreshments and bring your friends. Companies are encouraged to leave their trade show booths at the office because we provide cocktail tables and chairs where employers can interact with the top college candidates from southwestern Pennsylvania. Sponsored by the Team Pennsylvania Foundation. Presented in partnership with the Job & Career Education Center at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and the Regional Internship Center of Southwestern Pennsylvania. Note: HR

professionals who attend both Hire UP and @pgh.café save \$100 on registration and are eligible for significant discounts on the purchase of the Council's 2005-2006 Annual Total Compensation Survey.

Date: Tuesday, February 28

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Venue: Carnegie Music Hall, Oakland

Cost: \$250 for member companies, \$300 for non-member companies, No charge for students  
RSVP: Online, Council Events or 412.918.4229

### ***Hire UP***

Meet a roomful of experienced professionals who are ready for the next step up the corporate ladder. Hire UP is a casual networking and recruiting event that connects prospective employees to human resources

representatives from various Pittsburgh businesses. Attendees who are ready to make a career move are invited to highlight their skills, talents and abilities while employers tout their companies' benefits and find candidates who can take their organizations to the next level. Note: HR professionals who attend both Hire UP and @pgh.café save \$100 on registration and are eligible for significant discounts on the purchase of the Council's 2005-2006 Annual Total Compensation Survey.

Date: Wednesday, March 22

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Venue: Home Plate Club, PNC Park

Cost: \$350 for Council members, \$450 for non-members and free for job

seekers  
RSVP: Online, Council Events or 412.918.4229

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