

BUTLER COUNTY MANUFACTURING CONSORTIUM

Minutes for February 28, 2007

Present

Doug Bartosh, Unimach Mfg
Terri Lee Bowser, CID Associates
Lisa Campbell, BC3
Heather Swiergol, Butler Co. Area Vo-Tech
Don Neff, Eagle Rubber
Rick Green, Eagle Rubber
Bruce Curry, Penna Flame
Tim Chiochio, IDL Worldwide
Brandi Heichel, IDL Worldwide
Fred Hensel, Testing Solutions
Tim Hensel, Testing Solutions
Clayton Woodward, Woodward, Inc.
Jim Ferguson, Penn United Technology
Neil Ashbaugh, Oberg
Catie Morley, Pulva Corp
Caroline Hahn, Pulva Corp
Karma Edwards, U of Pgh Mfg Assistance Ctr
Mary Salony, Tri-County Workforce Investment Board
Lori Harvey, Tri-County Workforce Investment Board
Peggy Weckerly, PA CareerLink Butler County

Jim welcomed everyone and introduced Lori Harvey, new TCWIB Industry Partnership Coordinator who brings a research background with her and offered to help the manufacturers with their research needs. Steve Schultheis of IUP SBI, Mike King from Khoch HS and Andy Johnson from Slippery Rock HS.

Minutes for December 2006 will be reviewed at the March meeting. Doug reported a \$1650 ***balance in the treasury.***

Previous Business

New Training Grant CAD/CAM/CNC was awarded to BC3, and Lisa discussed timetables. Solid Works will be the first, and interested companies need to call ASAP! Each course is 30 hours, scheduled at ten 3-hour sessions at a time in early morning. Summer scheduling can be more flexible, and all training needs to be completed by the end of June 2007. This training is Level 1 requiring little to no experience. It will be open to Consortium members first and then opened to other manufacturers if the classes aren't filled.

Current Business

Manufacturer Spotlight: IDL Worldwide Brandi Heichel with HR and Tim Chiochio, Director of Mfg, discussed IDL which is a Point of Purchase (POP) Merchandising company. They create signage and displays to draw consumer attention to products or promotions within retail space. All fuels programs including Sheetz use their displays, as well as do a variety of other companies. They handle 3000 BP store displays and even Victoria's Secret. Graphics comprise half of their business. They build an actual display to scale inside their lab to determine the end effect. IDL designs, develops, handles the project and web-based management and finishes the display in their wood or metal shop; they warehouse and then install it. They are located in the old TruServ building in East Butler and can handle orders sized from 100 to 36,000 or more.

Volunteer are needed for **Co-Chair and Secretary**; call Jim at 724-352-1507, Ext. 285 if you're interested.

Vision/Planning for the 2007 implementation! The Consortium will be promoting the image of manufacturing through the incredible promotional efforts of the Armstrong Group, which is not charging for their services. They will be pulling together a video montage of manufacturers to run through the Manufacturing Technology Expo and to grow from there. The plan is to roll out 3 more companies every 2 months and rotate these on multiple days and times to build an awareness of Butler County's manufacturing base. The resource partners will be the last to be added. It is the Consortium's chance to put their spin on mfg since mfg has complete control over this video. The Consortium is co-sponsoring the Trinity Jazz Orchestra on Friday of the Manufacturing Technology Expo March 16 and 17. Full page ads for the Expo will run in the Butler and Cranberry Eagle, BC3 is sending a flyer to their mailing list for arts and theater, and the PA CareerLink is e-mailing over 2500 job seekers. The goal of the Expo is to keep the connection with the end product for the public – to see how much mfg affects the world. It's also good for mfg employees to attend the Expo to see the value of what they're doing in their product line so that retention and recruitment are improved. Growth through capacity building and recruitment is essential. Jim spoke with the school guidance counselors earlier this month and talked about the 2-2-2 concept. Youth need to understand the career ladder and that mfg has more career potential than most fields. Connections need to be made for youth and their parents.

Tri-County WIB Strategic Planning was held Feb. 8 and 9, and Jim attended. Part of their objective is to target students. Slippery Rock HS offered their entire gym for an expo, and so the idea of a "traveling show" to take it to the people may be a good idea.

Winston Erevelles, Ph.D., Dean of Engineering at RMU was to come today but could not. RMU just added a Manufacturing Engineering program to their curriculum.

W.I.I.F.M. (What's In It for Manufacturing)

Jim distributed folders for **Safety Solutions** which seems to offer the best pricing for safety items. They can bring their products to the business, sell on-line, and offer at their site out of state. He also mentioned that **Liberty Mutual** has a group saving plus program for cars, home, etc. Jim see information sharing as a benefit to all and suggested that by going together as a group, everyone may have great savings potential. The **SBI group from IUP** is going a survey of Butler County manufacturers to help evaluate ranked needs, and a copy of the survey was distributed for review. **In-kind reports** need to be completed at each meeting to show member investment in the consortium based on salary, hours spent, mileage, etc. In **other comments**, Neil asked that any eyeglass donations be given to him for the Lions. Clayton said that Woodward is sponsoring the Mars Battle Bots team. Heather said that the Vo-Tech will be holding an Open House on March 29 – call her to schedule a tour. PA CareerLink will have it spring job fair on April 5th from 1-6 PM at the Butler Days Inn, and companies must register by March 30.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 28th, at 7:30 AM in the PA CareerLink Butler County.

