

# **BUTLER COUNTY MANUFACTURING CONSORTIUM**

## **Minutes for September 16, 2009**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. Jim Ferguson welcomed everyone, immediately followed by introductions.
- B. Copies of the August '09 minutes were distributed prior via email and accepted.
- C. Treasure's report: \$177.00. Doug Bartosh gave Jim a list of people who have not paid their 2009 dues yet. 4 companies have responded so far.

### **II. TRAINING**

- A. **BC3** – Lisa shared that even though training all around has slowed down a bit, there are still some common training needs requested: Leadership & Supervision ; Microsoft Office; and Professional Skills Series.
  - 1. The Professional Skills Series is \$75.00 / class
  - 2. Able to offer 1 more class from the Strategic Business Communication class. Regardless of whether you participated in the first set of classes, can still attend. Open signup for “Leadership, Communication and Motivation”. This is FREE class 9/22/09 at BC3 8 am – 4 pm.
- B. **WEDNet** – on hold. Current understanding is the funds are being cut 61%. The funds will still be available, but to a significantly reduced amount.
- C. **DeVry University** – offering more electronic and computer classes. 4 more local companies have entered into training agreements with DeVry. DeVry is hosting a Career Fair this year in downtown Pittsburgh October 28<sup>th</sup>, Tim is willing to take any information about our November Expo and share at the 10/28 event if we would like.

### **IV. GRANT UPDATE**

- A. **State Budget** - the state has still not approved a budget. Ken passed out a letter from Department of Labor & Industry. Industry Partnership and Training money has been eliminated in SB850. Current budget proposal HB1416 includes \$20 million in cuts in workforce development programs, including eliminating outreach money. The letter from the Department of L&I encourages sustainability strategies.

### **V. OUTREACH TO SCHOOLS**

- A. **Career Cruising Network** – no report.
- B. **Educator in the Workplace** – no report.
- C. **Get FIT (Futures In Technology)** – no report.

### **VI. BCMC MEDIA / ADVERTISING**

- A. **BCMC Website** – MediaFrogg would charge us \$400 to add the Legislators page to our existing website. Currently, the money is not there. We will table this suggestion until more money is available in the consortium's account.
- B. **Butler Business Matters** – no report.

### **VII. BCMC GROWTH**

- A. **What can BCMC do to grow the Consortium – brain storming session**
  - 1. Jim sent a request to the Butler Co. Commissioners to see if they could help drive cooperation. In Armstrong and Indiana counties, their commissioners seem to help drive more cooperation between educators and employers. Need to educate people on the economic impact manufacturing has in Butler County. Ken suggested having Commissioners tour several manufacturers. Neil suggested doing a broad case study of Butler mfg. companies, or possibly virtual tour / power point presentation.
  - 2. May also be a generational misconception of manufacturing – old stereotypes. Heather suggested using school open houses and have parent (mfg employee) & their child do presentations.
  - 3. With the Butler Vo-tech having their Tech Fair November 4<sup>th</sup> and our Mfg Expo November 6 & 7, could our commissioners declare the week of Nov 1 Manufacturing week??
  - 4. Vicki Senco shared that the Chamber and the Butler Human Resources Association has an event in May. Could that also be a forum to participate and educate people about the BCMC?

5. The Chamber also has a very active legislative committee.
6. MediaFrogg is a member of the Butler Chamber. The Chamber plans weekly networking events and after business hours events. Has a speaker represent their company and how they impact & help the community. Can we do a similar “meet and greet”? Neil suggested Cummings Candy and Coffee has a shop on Main Street, Butler. They would be able to host such an event for us some evening. Neil will look into further.
7. Neil suggested that the BCMC have a page on Facebook. We must use the same technology that the students are using and Facebook is where they all are. Neil volunteered to help keep it up to date. Lisa will look into seeing if a student(s) from BC3 would also be interested. Could we have a link from our regular BCMC page?
8. Could we do more outreach to other counties, such as Allegheny, Lawrence and Beaver?
9. What if the BCMC did a float for the Butler parade? Great exposure!

**B. Clearview Mall Expo Event** – November 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>. – Must keep manufacturing in the public eye.

1. \$1500 will be the cost for center court. The Carnegie Science Center and “bouncy balls” were paid in advance through last year’s grant. Advertising has also been paid for.
2. Could our friends from Armstrong film some of the Expo, especially the activities with the kids?
3. Butler County Employer & Education group meeting will be 9/30. There is also a superintendents meeting as well as a principals group that gets together regularly to meet.
4. We would like to send a letter to Butler manufacturers to invite them to attend to increase participation. At this point, have to assume we are not getting grant funds but still have to move forward.

**C. Cranberry manufacturers** – we are still having a difficult time reaching and engaging manufacturers in the Cranberry region. Most members and partners present offered several insights regarding the distinction Cranberry makes from the rest of Butler County and how the BCMC can reach out to Cranberry.

1. This is not just an issue with our Manufacturing Consortium, but with other organizations too. The Cranberry Chamber of Commerce will be merging with North Allegheny Chamber, as they associate themselves more with Allegheny County than Butler. Tim Snapp from DeVry volunteered to share his contacts of Cranberry manufacturers. Anita Orzoco has also recently updated a list of Butler manufacturers’ contact information. Need to develop a strategic plan for growing Cranberry’s participation in the BCMC.
2. There will be an Economic Champion Summit on 9/21 at the Cranberry Marriott. We need to make connections and attend events to get BCMC better known. Also, there will be a Cranberry Hometown Expo 9/23.
3. If BCMC members could join other associations to represent the BCMC and build relationships, that is the best way to tell others about us.

**D. BCMC Membership benefits:** Penn United hosted a webinar on the Swineflu preparedness and invited consortium members. P.U.T. had 6 other companies attend as well. Just another example of working together!

## VIII. LEGISLATION ISSUES

**A. Tri-County WIB will be forming a Legislative Committee.**

1. Neil Ashbaugh and Kristen Bastaja have volunteered. Anyone else is welcome too.
2. Jim is trying to stay in touch with our local and state legislators.

## **IX. UPCOMING EVENTS / MISCELLANEOUS**

**October 7<sup>th</sup>** - PA CareerLink will be hosting their fall Job Fair on October 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am – 1:00 pm. Ken is asking if anyone would like to volunteer to represent the BCMC at a table there? Times are broken down into 2 hr time slots. If interested, see Ken Raybuck.

**October 16<sup>th</sup>** – IUP Innovation for Survival & Profit 7:30 am – 12:30 pm., Crimson Event Center, Folger Hall, IUP, Indiana PA

**October 28<sup>th</sup>** – DeVry sponsored Career Fair in downtown Pittsburgh. If interested in having a table, please contact Tim Snapp.

**November 4<sup>th</sup>** – Butler Vo-Tech’s Tech Fair. 8:00 am – 2:00 pm. If interested, contact Stephanie Karwoski at 724-282-0735 ext. 253.

**November 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>** – B.C.M.C. Manufacturing Expo at Clearview Mall. Friday and Saturday 10:00 am – 9:00 pm Carnegie Science Center will be demonstrating how “cool” science is between 4:00-8:00 pm each night.

*Next meeting will be **Wednesday October 21<sup>st</sup> at PA CareerLink, Butler 8:00 am .***