

Talent District Career Council
Wednesday, June 28, 2017
B & P Manufacturing

DRAFT - MINUTES – **DRAFT**

Committee members present: Dave Cox; Dr. Jason Jeffrey; Jim Rummer; Jeff Jennette; Ken Bollman

Committee members absent: Shirley Debelack; Michael Hill; Bill Myer; Leslie Nowlin; Doug Parkes; Bruce Schafer; Sander Scott; Tonya Smith; Pete Olsen; Susan DeCamillis; Gene Kaminski; Ed Bailey; Patti Gabos; Jim Tisdell; Kelly Smith

Staff present: Terry Vandercook; Lisa Schut; Christy Luckey-Nelson

Guests present: Richard Wolin; Kari Wineland; Mark Lagerway; Tim Martin; Craig Hewitt; Brent Neverth; Pat Goggin

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, Dr. Jason Jeffrey, at 11:00 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Those present introduced themselves by name and organization affiliation.

Approval of Agenda

Dr. Jason Jeffrey proposed motion to approve agenda; Dave Cox moved to approve agenda; motion supported by Mark Lagerway; no discussion; motion carried.

Approval of April 19, 2017 Draft Meeting Minutes

Dr. Jason Jeffrey proposed motion to approve April 19, 2017 Meeting Minutes; Jim Rummer approved motion, with Ken Bollman seconding; no discussion; motion passed.

Public Comment

None

Presentation – B & P Manufacturing

Craig Hewitt from B & P Manufacturing provided an overview of B & P Manufacturing's history, including its founding and how he (Craig) came to lead the company in his current capacity as President. He also provided additional information about B & P Manufacturing, including a sample of some of the products they manufacture, most notably handtrucks, and some of their more notable customers. He also highlighted their strategy to provide many in-house services related to the manufacture of their products, and their success with government contracts. Mr. Hewitt also briefly discussed how B & P Manufacturing's is beginning to be asked by their customers to problem solve unique issues experienced by customers, positioning themselves to well for future growth. Mr. Hewitt also discussed the desire of the company to provide good paying high quality jobs to job seekers in the area, and retain those job seekers in the area as well.

Update: Northwest MI Strategic Agenda for Talent

Terry Vandercook presented the need for increasing talent retention in the Northwest Michigan Region, specifically targeting ALICE families, and proposed the development of an Employer Resource Network (ERN). The ERN would be intended to coordinate and leverage efforts of Workforce Development, Employers and Community Based Organizations to provide support for ALICE families. Success Coaches would connect with employers and employees, providing employees in the region with support and navigation toward existing

community resources. Mr. Vandercook expressed there is already interest from many employers already in the region for an ERN. Committee attendees also expressed interest, and Mr. Vandercook promised to update the committee as the project moves forward to implementation.

Mr. Vandercook provided an overview of the Going Pro campaign currently underway in the State of Michigan. Going Pro attempts to promote Professional Trade Occupations (also referred to as 'skilled trades' or 'vocational occupations') to secondary and postsecondary students in an effort to promote these high skill, high paying and high demand jobs of the near future. Mr. Vandercook noted that many Professional Trade Occupations appear on the 'Hot Jobs Report' for the Northwest Michigan Region. Mr. Vandercook connected the Going Pro campaign with Governor Snyder's initiative for youth career planning for professional trades. This recently announced campaign attempts to market professional trades to K-12 students.

Discussion: Introduction of a Regional Workforce Development Award

Dr. Jason Jeffrey brought forward an idea to create a Regional Workforce Development Award. Committee Members were supportive of the idea, and Committee members agreed to work together to make decisions as to details of the award itself, including the nomination process and award criteria.

Round Table/Hot Topic Updates

Those present provided updates to their own programs/organizations. Kari Wineland (Rexair) discussed the need for soft skills and the extremely high demand for professional trade occupations in the boatbuilding industry in our region. Tim Martin (Pinnacle) shared his view of the high quality of customer service received from Northwest Michigan Works! in particular. Dave Cox agreed with these sentiments and noted the strong partnership between the ISDs in our region and Northwest Michigan Works. Other attendees chimed in with similar remarks. Rich Wolin (Northwestern Michigan College) promoted Manufacturing Day, an event coming up soon. Mark Lagerway (Baker College) described significant changes occurring within Baker College, citing a rebranding and reinventing initiative as they attempt to meet student demand while maintaining quality programs.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Schut