

## **MACHINING/MANUFACTURING ALLIANCE**

**November 9, 2007**

**8:00-9:30 a.m.**

**Erie Community College**

**Erie Room**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

- I. ***Opening Remarks*** – Mark Hoeber welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for taking time out of their busy schedules to join the session. He stressed that all members of the Alliance are joined with ECC in furthering the best interests of the manufacturing industry. We along with the students, are all part of the same community and by helping one another, we can be successful.
  
- II. ***State of Erie Community College*** - Richard Washousky welcomed the group and proceeded to report on the state of the College. Currently, ECC is involved in a search for a new president. While this is being done, we continue to partner with industry to form new alliances. Currently we are working with National Grid and National Fuel on new programs that are proving to be well received. Work proceeds on ECC's 45 Oak Street facility at City Campus. After giving a mini financial report, Mr. Washousky spoke of the need for a trained workforce in manufacturing and explained how ECC can help to provide that training.
  
- III. ***State of Industrial Technology Department*** – Nathan Witkowski explained Paul Goodrich's new role as a full-time faculty member of the Industrial Technology Department at ECC. Although Paul still maintains some of his previous duties as Project Director, others have been split between Nate and Paul Pietraszewski.  
  
Nate mentioned the strong enrollment in IT's programs this Fall. This is the first time we have run the 15 week Machining Program with three sections—one day and two evening. There are a total of 36 students enrolled.  
  
The Industrial Technology Program is offering 23 classes with 280 seats available and 229 seats filled. There are a total number of 123 active students in Industrial Tech this Fall.  
  
The One Year Certificate Program is awaiting approval from New York State. Nate listed the classes that are being offered for each semester and indicated that this certificate program has passed all ECC and SUNY approvals.
  
- IV. ***Tech Wars*** – Nate said we will be sending out information on the list serve for job postings using PowerPoint for upcoming manufacturing and job sessions. Mike Golebiewski noted that the Career Resource Center has been posting jobs on the ECC website.

Nate believes the best tool we have for recruitment is Tech Wars, specifically Battlebots. Five hundred Technology Education students from 24 different schools participated in events including Habitat for Humanity, Mouse Trap Tractor Pull, Mouse Trap Car, Bridge Building/Testing, Catapult, Robotic Cage Match, Cardboard Boat Challenge, T-shirt Design and Robotic Soccer.

Through the help of a Precision Metal Forming Grant, the IT Department offered a weekend class for 12 high school students to work on their Battlebots. Classes were conducted in our labs. Students and their Technology teachers from Eden, Sweethome, Newfane and Clarence as well as ECC faculty participated. During the sessions, we took tours of ECC, Elrae Industries and Staub Machine Co. to see the actual operations that take place in the manufacturing industry.

Last semester we ran another weekend session with 12 students and toured Staub Machine and Moog. Out of all participating groups at the Tech Wars, ECC's team took first, second and third places.

During these classes we promoted our summer internship program and were successful in recruiting five of the 24 participants plus two others who heard about the program from their classmates. We are currently working on a small grant to help pay tuition, supplies and faculty to teach these courses.

The familiarity of students with the manufacturing industry was questioned and a suggestion was made that tours and workshops be available to high school guidance counselors. This could be done in conjunction with FFIEC.

- V. ***High School Recruitment Efforts, Company Participation & Internships*** – Joanne Colmerauer spoke with regard to high school recruitment efforts, company participation and internships. She works with high school students to attract them to the manufacturing industry. The internship program has been on-going for three summers. Twenty people have participated in the program. Participation is limited to interested high school students who have graduated and are 18 years old by July 9, the starting date for the program. Joanne indicated that ECC is looking for companies that are interested in sponsoring students. During the first year, the internship paid a stipend of \$7 to the students, the second year it was increased to \$8 and the third summer it was \$9. The work week consisted of 40 hours for six weeks duration. Funding for the program is provided by the ECC Foundation so there are no costs involved for the participating companies. For those who complete the internship, three college credits are awarded, if the students enroll in the Manufacturing Program at ECC. This summer there were only four students who participated but the enthusiasm they displayed and the caliber of their work was great. Participating companies included Dynabrade, Sigma Motors, Accellent and Moog. When discussing their experiences, the students felt they were part of the companies and had hopes of eventual employment upon completion of their ECC studies. Nate indicated that the internships are for high school students only.

A question was asked with regard to insurance for these students and whether a company was liable if a student was injured at the worksite. Mr. Washousky assured them that ECC is self insured and the college's insurance program would be responsible for any medical coverage.

Joanne is the contact between the schools and the companies and Nate is the instructor and the individual who conducts the tours in cooperation with the companies. Joanne has been trying to interest some of the BOCES students in the manufacturing field. She sends out list serves to the schools and conducts tours on campus and at the companies. She is in need of companies to host the tours which would take about one hour. Charlie Corluccio will be contacting manufacturing companies to see if they would be interested in participating in the internship program. Mark Hoeber indicated that ECC is trying to attract students into the manufacturing field and by working together, we can build the industry.

Lee Backus was invited to address the group and she stated that we need a list of things that are needed to help the manufacturing industry in our area. We are all in this together and by joining forces, we can resolve some of the staffing problems we are now experiencing. We must tap into the displaced worker pool and students. Can we sponsor a team in Tech Wars? We need to extend ourselves more. Can taking interns into our companies help to resolve the problem? We need to get more Technical Education teachers involved in NFIEC conferences. We also need to involve guidance counselors.

Joanne Colmerauer stated that she is putting out an Adopt-a-High School request to the alliance members. She needs to take tools to guidance counselors at these schools. This idea is based on one adopted by the Western N.Y. Auto Dealers. Bob Slawinowski indicated that it was very successful in his Auto Trades Program. Joanne said counselors must be educated in what we are about. Lee asked if any companies would like to get involved in this. Some hands were raised.

Joanne noted a problem regarding high school guidance counselors. The counselors, when dealing with students who may be interested in manufacturing, direct them into the engineering field or to other four year programs. The counselors aren't aware of what manufacturing has to offer these students. We must make them aware of what we do and increase their interest in the field.

Lee said the hard part is to get the counselors to visit the companies. ECC can't do this for us, we must do this ourselves. Mike Golebiewski added that the first time the Machining/Manufacturing Alliance met, a survey was done of industry needs. Perhaps it's time we did another. He agreed to take on this project and asked all companies to respond to the survey. He suggested that school superintendents and principals be targeted for dissemination of information regarding manufacturing. Including a compendium of all jobs that are available industry-wide may be helpful.

Jean Filipiak from APA Solutions, a placement agency explained their connection with West Seneca West High School. They run a program whereby they match a student to

their area of interest. APA does a self assessment with the school. The Alliance could embrace the concept of going to the superintendents and principals as well as the Technology teachers. Someone suggested including middle school students as well as high schoolers when promoting the manufacturing industry. Lee said it is more difficult to host middle school students as they must be heavily chaperoned. Career preparation at every grade is important because students need to get career ideas early.

Mr. Washousky noted that ECC is willing to host manufacturing industry workshops for students and parents. WE will advertise in the Bee Newspapers. For the summer internships, we need to have committed industry sponsors. However, he disagrees with the current thinking in education and doesn't believe that young students can commit to a career path unless they have been guided by family interest from a very early age. Through his experience, he noted that students change their minds, even later in life. Young students will change their minds because they continue to explore ideas. Maturity is an issue why students fail in four-year colleges. At ECC we are getting many of these students and many others who have yet to make up their minds in selecting a career path. In many instances, individuals are looking for technical training. It is difficult to get these students committed to doing homework, getting to class and having a work ethic.

- VI. ***Alliance Committee Report Out*** – Jay Czerniak explained the role of the NTMA. The group lobbies Congress to make them aware of manufacturing's needs. They hold various seminars and host noted speakers. On Monday, November 12, Brian Higgins will be the guest at a dinner at Salvatore's. Local manufacturing issues will be discussed at that meeting. There is an upcoming tour and dinner at the Albright Knox Art Gallery and a seminar on leadership will have Heather Anderson as a guest speaker. Her talk will be on "How to Determine Emotional Intelligence When Hiring." Also, the NTMA hopes to engage Chris Collins, the County Executive Elect, in a discussion involving the manufacturing trade.
- VII. ***Question & Answer Period*** - Nate asked the attendees if there were any questions for discussion. He also asked if there was any way that ECC could do to improve the Manufacturing Program. He asked if there was improvement needed in the classrooms or if some further could be added to better the program offerings. He indicated that he is always available to hear their suggestions. He invited all attendees to join him in the CNC labs or to take a tour of the facilities. The meeting ended at 10:03.