

APPRENTICESHIP & INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT
May 10, 2018

Members Present

Jack Fisher, Chair
Ralph Bingham, GC Library System
Mike Dugan, NJLWD
Alisha Thompson, DWD
Melissa Eckstein, Gateway High School
Bridget DiGiambattista, WDB Staff

Kim Alexander, GCIT
Robert DeMarco, NJLWD
Peter Kaprielyan, Business
JaNea Wilson, NJLWD
John Furfari, WDB Staff

Members Absent

Sam Ferraino, Co-Chair
Jeffrey Berger, Union
Michael Blatt, USDOL
Cindy Cliver, Abilities Solutions
Lou Jiacopello, Union
James Robinson, Business
Brigette Satchell, RCGC
Michelle Shirey, GC WDB

Anthony Bellia, Business
Tom Bianco, GC Economic Development
Patty Claghorn, RCGC
Anthony DiFabio, Robin's Nest
Brian Mattei, County Apprentice Coordinator
Dan Ruotolo, Business
Jenn Shaw-Knab, DVRS
Stacey Smith, DVRS

Visitor

Andrew Koniecki, Smart Vent

Jack opened the meeting at 2:30 pm.

Motion to approved November 9, 2017 minutes was made by J. Wilson, seconded by A. Thompson.

Jack reported we will be developing new format for this committee and will not be as structured. Hoping to collectively get out of just reporting and create a format that creates more interaction with the business community.

Old Business

Meeting Time Change – after polling the committee, this meeting will now be held starting at 2:30 in the afternoon to accommodate members' schedules.

Advanced Manufacturing Roundtable – was held April 16 2018 at RCGC and was well attended.

New Business

Business 'Buy In' –

Andrew Koniecki, Controller of Smart Vent, a Flood Mitigation company located in the Bri-Scot Industrial Park in Pitman attended the meeting with Melissa Eckstein from Gateway HS as a guest to provide the committee with insight and to help in identifying apprenticeship opportunities.

What we learned:

- Smart Vent is rapidly expanding and beginning to search for new facilities – Company manufacturing is done in Spartanburg, South Carolina – some parts manufactured by Comet Tool (Pitman) and Lamatek (West Deptford) – Smart Vent Pitman location houses all executive operations (sales, management, accounting, insurance)
- Smart Vent has 35 total employees – 20 in Pitman and 15 nationwide floating technical/sales reps – the company also offers in house flood insurance which currently employs 4 Smart Vent agents.
- Smart Vent is currently working with NJMEP and NJDOL BSR JaNea Wilson utilizing grant funds for training (Six Sigma)
- Smart Vent anticipates growing the insurance business and increasing agent employment by 500% within 5 years (apprenticeship opportunity discussed – RCGC is Financial TIP lead, Smart Vent interested in a program to credential and graduate with insurance industry recognized certifications.

Ralph the Public Library Association Conference was held recently in Philadelphia and there was session on Making Montana initiative where there is an area where they have the community college, the library district, the school district, the economic development department, local Chamber of Commerce and a local manufacturing extension joined forces to offer Making Montana. It was a 2 day festival of invention and resourcefulness created to bring a network of businesses, economic development resources, and learning organizations to work together to grow next generation of innovators, ensuring a thriving local economy into the future.

National Manufacturing Day – John reported is scheduled for October 5th, however, October is National Manufacturing month. John asked members their thoughts on holding a small manufacturing specific job fair at the AJC. An idea would be to invite school districts to bring students possibly over several days during the month of October. Ralph stated RCGC is holding STEAM Con 2018, an Afternoon of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics and Fun on May 19th and is open to the public. John asked if Ralph would put together a proposal for a manufacturing event for kids and parents at the Library. Peter reported at the college level, Inspira has created an Innovation Center called Health Hack. In June, they will be teaming up with Rowan students on projects to address healthcare, they will select among the projects a few to fund.

John asked if the members could identify either a business contact, client, or student to provide testimony about apprenticeship program. Melissa said she could ask student(s) to provide testimony. Ralph suggested inviting business that attended the Advanced Manufacturing Roundtable.

A motion for adjournment was made.

The next meeting will be August 9, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget A. DiGiambattista, WDB Staff