



County of Mercer Workforce Development Board

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Virgen Velez
Acting Director

Brian M. Hughes
County Executive

Keith Secrest
Chairperson

WDB Advanced Manufacturing Committee ♦ Chairperson: Scott Needham

May 8, 2023 ♦ 2:00 p.m. (Via Zoom) ♦ Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Scott Needham (Princeton Air), **Larry Banks** (NJMEP), **Alan Munford** (MCTS), **Keith Secrest** (Kinetics Industries, Inc.), **Darren Stewart** (MC Economic Development), **Pete Tindall** (Homasote)

Staff: Virgen Velez, Kassia Bukosky, Maribel Duarte

Welcome

Chairperson Scott Needham welcomed the group.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes for March 13, 2023

Motion was made by Keith Secrest and seconded by Darren Stewart. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

Chair's Update

NJ Manufacturing – “State of the State” event

- About 600 in attendance; many manufacturers attended, along with legislators
- Held at the Trenton War Memorial
- All employers are experiencing same hiring challenges across the State

Central Jersey Manufacturers Summit

- Approximately 17 businesses attended this relaunch of the NJ Training Industry Partners
- Sypek Culinary Department catered the event

Electric Vehicles (EV) Roundtable

- Brainstorming effort to determine what equipment schools need to provide appropriate instruction that would lead to jobs
- Two meetings have been held – school and employer
- Committee will be notified of next meeting date

Update: MC One Stop Activities – Virgen Velez

Summer Youth Jobs Connection / July 3rd - September 1st

- Application deadline was 5/5/23; over 460 applications were received
- A virtual lottery will be held
- Youth to be served are 16-24 years old; contact the Youth Team if you are interested in becoming a worksite
- Youth are paid \$15/hr. for 22 hours weekly; job readiness classes are held on Fridays

Job Fair / May 24th (3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

- Event will be held at Cure Arena

Youth Career Awareness Event (Tentative)- Virtual / June 5th (5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.)

- Training opportunities – General and Certificate attainment
- Construction Trades
- Advanced Manufacturing – NJMEP
- Health Care
- Employment/Internships - general

Target population are graduating seniors who are not college-bound.

Update: MCCC – Dr. Laura Sosa, Interim Dean – Credit & Non-credit programming

NA

High Schools Programs Update – Michael Hanna

NA

Update: NJMEP – Alex Glen/Larry Banks

Manufacturing Day

- 70% of attendees were manufacturers
- It was very successful; follow-up will be conducted

Annual Golf Outing will be held for networking opportunities

- Information will be sent next week

NJMEP will connect with high schools to partner for summer activities

PY 2023 Goals – Committee and/or Programming

- Explore bringing awareness to 9th graders
- Present labor market information to youth
- Use books to expose industry to youth
- Define Advanced Manufacturing in a way youth will understand and relate to

It was suggested having a “Lego” day at elementary schools to begin sparking interests.

Scott Needham likes using “durable skills” instead of soft skills; but hard to use when it comes to DOLWD policies.

Announcements/Events - Members

Scott Needham is working Logistically with MCTS to deliver equipment Princeton Air is donating.

MCTS did compete in the SkillsUSA.

Small Business Grant Update – Darren Stewart

- Over \$1.5 million has been disbursed to businesses that met the requirements (max of 20 employees)
- Over 900 application received
 - 214 approved
 - 200 in the pipeline; pending for various reasons; they are being contacted
- Maximum of \$10k grant funding; checks are delivered in person or business pick them up
- Two information sessions were held in April (MCCC/JKC and Mercer County Connection)
 - Next one held on May 15th at MCCC/JKC

Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

PY 2023 Meeting Dates: 2nd Monday on bi-monthly basis 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

July 10, 2023
September 11, 2023
November 13, 2023

January 8, 2024
March 11, 2024
May 23, 2024