



Advanced Manufacturing Sector Board

Thursday, August 17th, 2023

8:30am-10:00am

EICC Blong Technology Center 8500

Hillandale Rd.

Davenport, IA 52806

In-Person

Meeting Agenda:

8:30AM Welcome and Introductions – 30+ people in attendance

Host Update: EICC

- Getting ready to expand the Blong Tech Center and develop new programs driven by innovation and high enrollment, with focus on automation and additive manufacturing
- Phase 1 Spring 2024 and Phase 2 hopefully by Fall 2024

Workforce Development Updates Sector Board Restructure

- Introductions and Roles & Responsibilities
- Mississippi Valley Workforce Development Board will be the Convener of the sector board
 - Miranda Swafford
 - Andrea Taylor
 - Mandy Tripp
 - Tyler Lanz

Convener	Chairperson	Member
Communications – calendar invites, meeting minutes, member questions	Industry liaison	Industry advocate
Marketing & recruitment	Facilitate meetings	Attend meetings
Document meeting minutes	Prioritize agenda	Engage and collaborate
Collaborate with Chairperson	Accountability to Board goals and objective	Able to make decisions regarding the represented organization
Help implement Board strategies		

- Aligning under DOL – doesn't change the overall goals and objectives of sector board
- Minutes, website, promotional opportunities, social media, other project management duties to further the initiatives of the sector board
- **Future communications will come from Tyler Lanz**
Tyler@mississippivalleyworkorce.com

- Will offer marketing resources and support
 - Webpage is in the works, as well as other promotional materials
 - Sector Board will be rebranded as Mississippi Valley Advanced Manufacturing Sector Board, support of western Illinois will continue
- Future Funding Opportunities
 - Potential for future grant opportunities through Iowa Workforce Development related to sector boards
 - Discussed having two main ideas, in case one of them doesn't meet the grant requirements
 - Industry awareness campaigns
 - Apprenticeships – exposure and engagement of youth in career exploration
 - Digital marketing
 - Career Expo
 - Solutions to workforce barriers
 - Put out a survey to local employers to determine barriers they're facing
 - Transportation
 - Labor availability and labor quality – unable to grow businesses.
 - Soft skills. Changing work cultures. → evaluate opportunities for flexibility
 - Work-based learning tech
 - Use the resources that exist – Title I WBL, Retrain and Retain, IJAG
 - Kirkwood best practice software for WBL
 - Technology to use at career expo on behalf of the industry or to help businesses provide hands on activities
 - Scholarships/sponsorships
 - Kids camps

Retrain & Retain Grant – Application Open – Andrea Taylor and Lauren Kress

- Novelis shared testimonial
 - Entry level employees promoted to Operations Managers, received Supervisor Fundamentals training from MRA, which emphasized soft skills
 - Increased trust, confidence and autonomy for supervisors
 - Could not have hosted the training without the grant support
- Grant information and application
Website:
- <https://www.mississippivalleyworkforce.org/grants> [[mississippivalleyworkforce.org](https://www.mississippivalleyworkforce.org)]
Interest Form:
<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=nfQNOZuBo02gUDlgZQIjliQ8tamoLyZNUwrYluj-EAZUOTdUUjBJMEwwNEs2U0ZaV1VCNDJFUzE0Vi4u> [forms.office.com]

Job Quality Program Update – Christine Caves and Mandy Parchert

- Mississippi Valley was selected as 1 of 16 regions to pilot Job Quality Academy with the objective to identify resources to support our region elevate the “Good Job Principles”
- Sector Boards will be utilized as model of best practice
 - The Manufacturing Sector Board will be used for industry information
- More details to come

High School Apprenticeship Program Update and Testimonials:

- Jovani – currently completing a Registered Apprenticeship with HNI as a Maintenance Repairer, will still be taking core classes for his senior year of high school. Had an idea of what he wanted to do –

machine maintenance – and took the initiative to work with his high school industrial tech teacher and counselor for next steps.

- Nick – currently completing an Apprenticeship with Elliott Aviation and discussed the ongoing support he has received on the job, relationships built, and company culture which has positively impacted his experience. Also discussed the impact of passion on work and employee retention.
- Discussed the impact of engaging youth earlier in career exploration and discussion of opportunities. Discussed the importance of emphasizing education (graduating High School) and being willing to offer flexible options for apprentices to do so.
- Compensation was identified as the top initial attraction to a career
- Discussed how to create tools to support apprentices to more easily market and advocate for the programs to other students

Work Group Report Outs

- Minimal interest was identified in formal work groups outside of the Sector Board
- Will continue to seek ways to drive action between meetings

Small Business Development Center Resources – Conor Flaherty

- Joel Young, SBDC – increasing engagement with manufacturing industry
- Manufacturing 4.0
- Satellite centers
- Iowa Innovation Continuum
- Venture School

Manufacturing Month Planning

CIRAS Manufacturing Industry Event – Eric Faierson and Melissa Burant

- 10/17/2023 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bettendorf
- Highlighting resources for Iowa Manufacturers, Networking Opportunities
- Register to attend: [Overview : Midwest Manufacturing & Networking: Find Your Competimates & Collaborate : Blackthorn : Events](#)

IMEC/IMA Maker on the Move Bus Tour – Christine Caves

- Opportunity for the bus to stop in the QC Area
- Would like to have a youth focus
- More details to come

You Choose event in Clinton

- Youth career expo with simulator experience
- October 4th 2:30-6:30pm
- More details attached in email

Open Forum/Upcoming Community Events

10:10AM EICC Additive Manufacturing Lab Tour

Save the Date

October – National Manufacturing Month

September 23 – Elliott Aviation’s Girls in Aviation Day

October 4, 2:30pm-6:30pm You Choose event at Clinton Gateway Center

October 17th 9am-2pm – Find you Competimate & Collaborate

November 16th, 2023 8:30am-10am– Q4 Sector Board Meeting

Host - ISU QC Laboratory 500 Tremont Ave., Suite 105, Davenport, IA 52807

Q1 Date TBD – Sears Seating

Q2 Date TBD – TBD