



Iowa Sector Connect – Advanced Manufacturing Group Call Notes

Dial-In Number: 1-866-685-1580, Conference Code: 5152813866

Thursday, October 5th 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

Purpose: Opportunity for Advanced Manufacturing sector partnership teams from across the state to network and share updates about their programs, offer recommendations/best practices, and ask questions of one another so that each program continues to grow and thrive.

Attendance: Kim Didier (DMACC), Jennifer Erdman (IHCC), Keri Kono (HCC), Pamela Wright (HCC), Starlyn Isaacson (IWCC), Erica Bergfeld-Reed (KCC), Dr. Ellen Kabat Lensch (EICC), Sue Gibbons (IDOE), Joe Collins (IDOE). Updates provided before call by IVCC and Elevatelowa teams.

Team/Program Updates

Iowa Valley – MFG Day event is focused on area high school students. Activities include an HR panel, breakout sessions, employer panel, tour of tech areas/programs at Marshalltown Community College, and a "working lunch" with presentations during lunch from IowaWORKS, Marshalltown Community College and an Elevate Iowa presentation from Emerson and Lennox. Additive/3D printing came up at last meeting with employers, with interest in future of jobs and potential for training/curriculum development. Emerson/Fisher recently began internship program for 16-17 year olds, which is often problematic because of health or safety concerns for minors within Advanced Manufacturing facilities. Team worked to define barriers and creative solutions for getting more youth working on actual machines within the facilities. (May be willing to present findings and offer advice during a future call)

Indian Hills – In partnership with IowaWORKS, they have a manufacturing employer in each of their 10 counties to provide tours and guidance for careers in Advanced Manufacturing for over 500 students. They are also in the pre-planning phase of organizing an Economic Development Summit that will occur in early spring 2018.

Hawkeye – Recently had a lunch and learn for employers about Registered Apprenticeship programs, specifically in CNC. Hosting career fairs and hiring events in partnership with IowaWORKS to not only educate job seekers and students about careers in Manufacturing, but also get people jobs. Offering free classes on Additive Manufacturing (3D printing) soon to help build awareness and begin training local workers on new tech. They are testing a strategy of rotating sector board meetings between site visits/tours and regular sit-down meetings to increase current member engagement and new member recruitment.

Kirkwood – Holding an event on 10/05 and an entire week of events 10/16-20 for local job seekers and students to tour facilities, speak with employers, and learn more about careers in Manufacturing in their region. They are also planning an event in November to bring together sector partnership teams for training and discussion on future opportunities to collaborate with one another. Erica was contacted by someone from Mid-America TAAC about potential funds available to help promote manufacturing jobs and sector partnership work in MO, KS, NE, and IA. (Might be good topic for future call)

Eastern Iowa – Have a “Super Sector” meeting coming up in November to bring all of the sector partnerships together for discussion, networking, and to bring in guest speakers from around the state to learn about best practices and successful strategies. Plan to reconvene the group again in April as part of a larger partnership planning process, including utilizing funds from a Lumina grant. They have a local user group for additive/3D printing to learn more about the technology and future needs. Recently applied for a grant through NSF-ATE for financial assistance to begin developing a program/training for utilizing this new tech.

Iowa Western – Taking a different approach this year with Manufacturing Day/Month tours and events and having employers take the lead. Team still plans to attend events, but more so as a guest.

ElevateIowa – Lots of things going on in October for Manufacturing Month. Alex recommends each team visit the News and Events section of their site to learn about some of the current and future events. Holding an Ambassador training at Kirkwood on 11/14. Contact Alex directly to register and for additional details.

General/State/Misc Updates

Department of Education: Joe is working on a number of initiatives to further connect, support, and empower sector partnership teams across the state. Planning additional hands-on training sessions and a sector partnership summit/conference in 2018. Toolkit 3.0: Sustaining was just released for download that covers a wide range of topics to assist in the further growth and management of sector partnerships, including funding, marketing/outreach, and performance metrics. Recently had a call with someone from the Mid-America TAAC about trade protection assistance and resources for manufacturers. Organizing a meeting with other stakeholders to learn more about the new program and how it can be rolled out on a wide scale in Iowa. Kirkwood team also working directly with them for assistance in their area. More info to come.

Call Topics: SurveyMonkey will be sent out shortly to gauge interest in various topics to be covered/discussed during future calls. Some that were brought up during most recent call were a guest speaker from sector partnerships in other states (WI or CO) to learn more about their programs/struggles/successes; an overview of the new Future Ready Iowa initiative; overview of best practices by teams (ie: what has worked well that could benefit other teams); guest speaker from a program that employs youth in a more hands-on/working capacity, not just tours (ie: new Emerson/Iowa Valley internship that has youth on the actual floor, using machines).

2017/2018 Call Schedule

*All calls are scheduled for 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM, unless otherwise noted

2017 - 10/05, 12/14

2018 - 02/08, 04/12, 06/14, 08/09, 10/11, 12/06