

N.E.W. Manufacturing Alliance
K-12 Outreach Task Force Minutes

November 18, 2011
Great Northern Corporation
8:30 a.m.
Minutes

Members Present: Beth Dulak-Smith, Brian Diermeier, Derek Lineberry, Joe Sheehan, John Knickerbocker, Lori Peacock, Mary Sue Lavin, Megan Crary, Sallie Castle, Steve Schneider, Tania Kilpatrick, Ann Franz and Bobbi Miller

October 6 follow up and next steps:

Members discussed the feedback from the October 6 General Membership meeting and felt that the feedback was very positive. Some of the themes to arise from that event included:

- Educators want a connection to business
- A big driver in having business partnerships is to create relationships

Some of the next steps identified were:

- Franklin Middle School would like 8th graders to go through assembly program
- Neenah High connected with Alliance to schedule job shadow opportunities for 6 students
- Ashwaubenon would like an evening program for students to connect with businesses

Other thoughts:

- Some comments have indicated that the session was great but we need to be clear about ‘what is next’
- Some tech ed teachers are disappointed that they were not invited to the session
- Need to follow up with educators and see if they are using the lesson plans provided
- How can we use the pathway concept to explore careers? Can we build onto the work that’s already been done in this area? We should check into www.wicareerpathways.org (site where students can build on a program of study).
- To get parents excited, we must first get kids excited
- It’s important to note that it’s not just the Manufacturing Alliance that is contacting schools, a number of other industries are also reaching out to educators and want kids to get engaged in their industry
- Solutions/offerings might differ from school to school. We should identify a handful of schools to target and create a rich relationship with those schools.

Members discussed a number of avenues that we might take for next steps including a Saturday morning program, mock interviews, plant tours, being available at parent-teacher conferences, etc. Ultimately, whatever hype we create for students, we must be prepared for the ‘what’s next’ question from students.

Tania said that one idea worth exploring would be the concept of creating a network for youth apprenticeship kids so they stay committed to their program.

It was noted that the Alliance should be thinking bigger and making sure we’re allowing students to ‘do’ rather than just ‘see’ what manufacturing is all about (for example, Ariens and Azco have staff going into the classroom and tandem teaching with educators). If we can relate educational opportunities for students to see how curriculum supports and occupation, we’re making education more relevant.

Using the healthcare model for job shadows would streamline the process of getting students access to a job shadow opportunity.

Topic 5: Next Steps

- 1. Set up a time to meet with technical colleges, tech prep educators, deans, and educators to look into Intro to Manufacturing coursework**
- 2. Contact all schools that attended Oct. 6 to discuss next steps**
- 3. Target Middle school activities and next steps for students (including job shadowing and plant tours)**
- 4. Next Meeting: January 20 at 8:30 a.m. at FVTC**