

**St. Charles County
Workforce Development Board**

Manufacturing Task Force

Mission Statement:

The St. Charles County Workforce Development System is an alliance of public and private leaders dedicated to moving careers, companies and communities forward through workforce development that impacts local wages, economic development that impacts local business investment and community development that impacts the local tax base.

Committee: Manufacturing Task Force (February 24, 2021)

Attending Manufacturing Taskforce

WDB Members: Amanda Sizemore, Ben Abbott, Mike Hurlbert,

Attending

Manufacturing Task Force Members:

Cathy Pratt- City of St. Peters
Cheryl Renne – Nike
Chris Lageman- State Tech
Dan Sutton – SAK Construction
Darrel Keesling- Component Bar Products
Doug Potts – City of Dardenne Prairie
Jeremy Sutton- BCI Skills Center
Louis Pounds – SAK Construction
Patty Brown – City of O’Fallon
Scott Drachnik – EDC St. Charles
Scott Kearns – St. Charles Community College
Theresa Matlock – Newco Coffee
Tammie De Los Santos – St. Charles Community College

Attending Guests:

Mike Chittum, DHEWD
Leanna Eckhoff, DHEWD

Staff: Lori Myers
Vicki Swartzenberg
Kim Willis

1. Welcome/Comments

Mike Hurlbert welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

2. Approve Task Force Meeting Minutes from 18 November 2020

The minutes from the November 18, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Ben Abbott made a motion to accept the minutes. Darrel Keesling seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Minutes approved.

3. Presentation: Incumbent Worker Training Program

Mike Chittum provided a presentation on how to promote and manage work-based learning (WBL) & Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) Programs. He discussed how these programs can be used to help avert layoffs of potential employees, or obtain the skills necessary to retain employment, such

as increasing the skill levels of employees so they can be promoted within the company and create backfill opportunities for less-skilled employees. He stated the first step would be for employers to contact the MO Job Center if they are interested in participating in these programs or have questions.

4. Local Workforce & Economic Development Update

Lori gave an update on the latest local unemployment numbers. December had an unemployment rate of 4.7%. She stated that this was a significant increase from the November rate of 3.1%. St. Charles has lower rates than surrounding counties. St. Peters had the lowest rate in December with 4.4%. Labor force participations numbers significantly increased for December. Mike Hurlbert gave an update on Housing numbers. St. Charles is one of the fastest growing counties in the state. Numbers are 22% higher than last year. Growth rates have not been this high since 2007.

5. Current needs of manufacturers in St. Charles County

Mike Hurlbert opened a discussion on manufacturers' current needs. Ben Abbott stated that labor continues to be the biggest struggle. COVID 19 has also created challenges. Mike Hurlbert suggested that employers encourage their employees to register on the St. Charles County Vaccine Portal. It was suggested that it might be helpful to have vaccine stations set up at companies to make getting a vaccine easier for employees.

6. Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting is scheduled for May 26, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

7. Adjournment

Ben made a motion to adjourn. Scott seconded it. All were in favor.