

**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 (May 26, 2021)

Attending Manufacturing Taskforce

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

Attending

Manufacturing Task Force Members:

Chris Lageman- State Tech
Dan Sutton – SAK Construction
Debbie Muraski- National Cart
Diana Forbes- General Motors
Diana Wehde- Woodbridge
Doug Potts – Dardene Prairie
Jason Quinn - QTE
Jeremy Sutton- BCI Skills Center
Louis Pounds – SAK Construction
Patrick Brown – Fort Zumwalt
Patty Brown – City of O’Fallon
Scott Drachnik – EDC St. Charles
Theresa Matlock – Newco Coffee
Dawn Williams- RB
Tammie De Los Santos – St. Charles Community College

Attending Guests:

Katie Vargas- Francis Howell School District
Julia Daugherty- Patriot Machine

Staff: Lori Myers, Vicki Swartzenberg, and Kim Willis

1. Welcome/Comments

Lori Myers welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

2. Approve Task Force Meeting Minutes from 24 February 2021

The minutes from the February 24, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Ben Abbott made a motion to accept the minutes. Louis Pounds seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Minutes approved.

3. Discussion:

A discussion was held regarding 2 articles shared by Mike Hurlbert about the future of manufacturers and the lack of skilled labor. According to the study in the article, the manufacturing skills gap is anticipated to leave 2.1 million jobs unfilled by 2030 costing the U.S. economy as much as \$1 trillion.

- Dawn Williams with RB indicated they currently have 103 appointments. They are considering going somewhat more automated.
- Ben Abbott with Permian Plastics indicated that automation will supplement their current workforce.

- Theresa Matlock with Newco indicated that have 15 openings – most are assembly positions. They are currently down about 60 employees.

4. Presentation: MO Amp Grant

Amanda Sizemore provided a presentation on the Missouri Apprenticeships in Manufacturing Program (MoAMP). The grant could be used to create pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship training programs. She discussed how the grant could be used to partner with employers and assist with high-demand workforce needs. Grant funds are good through 2023 or potentially 2024.

5. Local Workforce & Economic Development Update

Lori gave an update on the latest local unemployment numbers. April had an unemployment rate of 3% down from 3.4% in March. Labor force participations numbers increased to 226,539 in April from 223,704 in March. Lori also gave an update on Housing numbers. Housing numbers continue to increase.

6. Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting is scheduled for August 25, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

7. Adjournment

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