

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD OF SOLANO COUNTY

MEETING RE-CAP SOLANO MANUFACTURERS WORKFORCE TASK FORCE December 10, 2008

The Solano Manufacturers Workforce Task Force held a meeting on Wednesday, December 10, 2008, at Anheuser Busch Corporation, 3101 Busch Drive, Fairfield, CA 94533. The meeting was called to order at 3:36 p.m.

Attendees	Staff Present
Amelia Glass, Rexam Beverages	Cheryl Joseph
Arlene Bailey, Fairfield-Suisun Adult School	Miss-Ashley Kendrick
Deborah Mann, Solano Community College	Kristen Vaughan
Douglas Ford, Solano County Office of Education	
Joseph Schloesser, Clorox	
Judith Solovieff, Vallejo City Unified School District	
Mark Berrett, Solano Community College	
Mark Butler, Rockridge Partners	
Mike Ammann, Solano EDC	
Mike Wilson, Rockridge Partners	
Peter Schiller, Employment Development Dept.	
Robert Bloom, WIB of Solano County	

I. Welcome /Convening

Mr. Robert Bloom, Executive Director/President of the Workforce Investment Board, acting Chairperson of the Solano Manufacturers Workforce Task Force for the duration of Ms. Christine Briceno's leave of absence, welcomed the Task Force and asked everyone to introduce themselves to new attendees. Ms. Amelia Glass of Rexam Beverages was introduced as a representative of Rexam Beverages in place of Ms. Briceno for the duration of her leave of absence. Ms. Arlene Bailey of Fairfield-Suisun Adult School was introduced as a temporary replacement in Ms. Vickie Good's absence.

II. Review of October 29, 2008 Meeting Recap Notes

There were no corrections or additions to the October 29, 2008 Meeting Recap.

III. Informational Briefings

Mr. Bloom opened the discussion by providing the Committee with an overview of Employment Training Panel (ETP) and introduced Mr. Robert Meyer, an ETP representative to the Task Force.

A. Utilization of Employment Training Panel (ETP) Resources

Mr. Meyer shared the vision and the purpose of the ETP resources with the Committee. It was noted that ETP is an economic development resource, offered to employers for over 25 years. ETP seeks to develop strategic relationship with employers to offer training and similar opportunities designed to increase the efficiency of their employees. Mr. Meyer lead a discussion following a handout entitled State of California: Employment Training Panel (ETP).

-Current ETP Approaches

It was discussed that ETP is currently seeking to develop training programs for the Veterans and pilots populations. Thus, these programs would increase the vocational and soft skills of these populations. Mr. Meyer announced that training equipment could classify as training to increase the efficiency of employees.

The current training reimbursement rates for employers are between \$18 and \$26 per hour for small and large organizations respectively. The size of an organization is established as: small 59 or fewer employees, and large roughly 100 employees or more. The training reimbursement rates will vary based on the type of training offered to employees.

As there is no age requirements expected of the employees receiving training, it was noted that ETP also offers an “At Risk Youth” program to those employers that specifically work with the youth population.

-Multi-employer Collaborative

Mr. Meyer noted that ETP could also assist employers and organizations or the service providers to these employers and organizations by offering support that is needed in grant proposals. The Task Force expressed enthusiasm in learning about the resources offered by ETP and a brief discussion ensued. As several questions arose during the discussion, it was established that the employers that participate in the resources offered by ETP do not require an increase in the employee’s salary.

The application process for obtaining the resources offered by ETP has been simplified over the past years. Today, prospects simply complete the application- this is to determine eligibility. This process occurs at one of the two nearest ETP district offices located in Sacramento and Foster City.

IV. Making the Connection

A. Status Report: Department of Labor “Community Based Job Training (CBJT) Grant” Application

Mr. Mike Wilson of Rockridge Partners informed the Committee of the new funding opportunities available to engineering and wind turban skill programs, specifically, for the skill programs at middle school, high school and community college levels. The funds available for new opportunities are nearly \$400,000.

B. Status Report: Planning for February 25th “Manufacturers Open House”

Mr. Bloom informed the Task Force that the Workforce Investment Boardstaff is preparing for the event, organizing festive activities for participants (e.g. Raffles, etc.). Mr. Bloom asked for the help of the Committee with sponsorships, specifically, 5 to 8 \$100.00 donations to purchase the "Promo Cards". These are promotional cards that will be used to advertise the event. They are typically the size of two business cards put together, and are printed on heavy, glossy card stock. Additionally, in-kind donations such as corporate promotional items (e.g. baseball caps, t-shirts, sweaters, etc.) and providing staff helpers at the Manufacturers Open House are also needed.

Ms. Cheryl Joseph, Corporate/Business Services Manager of the Workforce Investment Board announced that a total of 11 manufacturing employers have confirmed their participation in the Open House. The Workforce Investment Board has also scripted an announcement to be read over the announcement intercom at local Middle Schools and High Schools. Additionally, the Workforce Investment Board has prepared a press release to be published in the Solano County Office of Education's Bulletin and Newsletters.

C. Update: Mechatronics Enrollments – Spring 2009

As it is still early, spring 2009 course enrollment starts December 15 -January 20, no update on Mechatronics enrollments was reported to the Committee. However, Mr. Mark Barrett of Solano Community College anticipates a successful spring semester for the Mechatronics program.

V. Other Business

Mr. Bloom announced, a recent grant proposal submitted to the State has been awarded to the Workforce Investment Board for \$ 1 million over a 3-year period, specifically to serve the Veterans population. This program will begin in January, 2009.

Mr. Douglas Ford of Solano County Office of Education distributed a newsletter entitled Doug Ford's Solano Education Newsletter: November 2008.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

The next meeting of the Solano Manufacturers Workforce Task Force is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 28, 2008 from 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**, at Anheuser Busch, 3101 Busch Drive, Fairfield, CA 94533.