



WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

*Center for Innovation and Enterprise
Engagement*

IMCP Task Force MINUTES

Friday, January 24, 2014
8:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
NCAT Building
Room S210 and S211

Members present:

Wayne Bell, SBA	Debra Franklin, WSU	Greg Panichello, Kansas Small Business Development Center
Ed Berger, Hutchinson Community College **	Sherry Gegen, WSU	Deb Scheibler, Kansas WorkforceONE**
Bill Bolin, South Central Kansas Economic Development District	Kristen Gibbs, WSU	Sue Schlapp, Kansas Department of Commerce
Royce Bowden, WSU, CoE	Lou Heldman, WSU	Gabe Schlickau, Black Hills Energy
Patty Bradley, WSU, CEDBR	Janis Hellard, Sumner County Economic Development Commission	Bill Smith, Spirit AeroSystems
Patricia Brasted, WTC**	Steve Kelly, Kansas Department of Commerce **	John Tomblin, WSU, RTT and NIAR
Tim Chase, GWEDC	Patty Koehler, JR Custom Metal Products Inc	Ron Weddle, Aerospace Systems and Componenets
Chris Chronis, Sedgwick County	Keith Lawing, Workforce Alliance of South Central KS	James Wolff, WSU, CFE
Barbara Davis, Society of Women Engineers	Paul Masson, StarNet, LLC	Paul Wooley, CiBOR, Via Christi
Mike Edwards, WATC	Keith Meyers, KDOC **	
Kerri Falletti, CFCC Economic Development	Heather Morgan, Project 17 **	** via phone
Mickey Fornaro-Dean, Harvey County Economic Development	Karyn Page, Kansas Global Trade Services	

8:00 am – Arrival and Coffee Reception

8:15 am – Welcome and Introductions

John Tomblin opened the meeting with facilitator introduction of task force members and the facilitator, Paul Masson.

Agenda and Meeting Guidelines

John Tomblin gave a brief explanation of the IMCP program and the Phase I awarded proposal, including the ideas of community interest and the necessity of member involvement for the initiative's success. Paul Masson further introduced himself and provided a summary of the meeting's agenda.

Opening: Objectives & Outcomes

Debbie Franklin reviewed the program's objectives.

1. Familiarization with IMCP structure and opportunities
2. Agreement to support the WSU coordinated initiative
3. Collaboratively provide information and inputs that will improve facilitation of innovation, development, production, and sale of products as well as corresponding workforce quality
4. Identification and prioritization of key manufacturing strategic investment(s)

IMCP Opportunity and Background

• Regional Coordination/Leadership

Franklin reviewed the WSU Strategic Plan highlighting the mission statement which states that the University will be an "economic driver for Kansas and the greater public good" and that WSU will "accelerate the discover, creation and transfer of new knowledge." This is consistent with the increased national emphasis of universities engaging in technology-based economic development and assisting local firms to adapt to changing markets and technologies by continually introducing commercially viable products, services and production process.

• Positioning of Southern Kansas

Franklin reviewed manufacturing concentration data and identified manufacturing sectors where Wichita has concentration levels that exceed twice the national average. According to the Brookings report of the largest 100 MSAs, the Wichita MSA is the highest ranking clusters in terms of national manufacturing employment, specifically in aerospace vehicles and defense, heavy machinery and oil & gas manufacturing with a concentration rate twice the national average. The Wichita MSA is ranked third in the country for very high-tech manufacturing – industries which have a high percentage of science and engineering workers. Task force members extended the discussion to include analysis of what the concentration mean on a global scale. Members acknowledged the regional comparative advantage is in the advanced manufacturing industries. It will be essential for the proposal to include a discussion on the regional excess capacity for post-recession workforce as well as infrastructure.

- **Preparing a Strategy**

Franklin shared strategy preparation with the group, including creating a long-term plan with strategic investments to accelerate manufacturing, stakeholder collaboration, support for experiential learning and emphasizing long-term engagement from industry.

- **Preparing a Proposal**

Over a period of three task force meetings, stakeholders, assisted by an independent facilitator, will provide input into six integrated topics important for a strong manufacturing ecosystem. These include:

- Workforce and Training
- Supply Chain
- Research and Innovation
- Infrastructure/Site Development
- Trade and International Investment
- Operational Improvement and Capital Access

Two additional assessments have been commissioned to support the proposal – a) develop a strategic export plan and b) development of an entrepreneurship plan.

The proposal is due on March 14, 2014, and will be informed by the stakeholder inspired strategies that will best strengthen and support advanced manufacturing.

Engaging Stakeholders: Who?

After a short break, Paul Masson facilitated the second half of the meeting. The composition of the task force membership was discussed.

Creating Strategy: How?

The task force members, as stakeholders, will provide the capability to coordinate new investment for advanced manufacturing. The stakeholders, using “group wisdom,” will provide input into development and prioritization of strategies and new investments in order to strengthen the region’s advanced manufacturing industry.

Strategy Process: What’s Next?

- Prioritize needs & opportunities
- Gather Info
- Make Decisions
- Make Conditional Commitments

Core Topic: Supplier Networks

Facilitated group discussion identified the gaps within the regional supplier networks and began to prioritize initiatives that will lead to a more cost effective, streamlined supply chain resulting in a more competitive manufacturing ecosystem. It was suggested that better integrated capabilities and processes or technologies would be beneficial to higher business functionality. The importance of materials knowledge and preparation – their transport and location, supply chain capability and workforce skills transferability were also discussed.

Core Topic: Workforce Development

Masson facilitated a discussion on the importance of workforce development in order to create a sustainable manufacturing strategy. Discussion involved industry recognized certifications / education, employee skill sets and the employer buy-in into these certifications, market intelligence, early exposure and outreach programs to develop interest, and introduction of new employees into the industry for a sustained workforce.

Next Steps

Masson addressed action item questions, marking them for further discussion at the 2/6 or 2/27 meetings. Time was given for any further questions or clarification.

11:35 am – Adjourned – Thank you

Debbie Franklin adjourned the meeting and thanked the group for attending.

Additional Task Force Meeting: Thursday, February 6 and Thursday, February 27