



Joint Newark & Essex County Business and Economic Development Committee
Essex County College- Training Inc.
Thursday, August 23, 2018 at 9:00 am
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Mike Andreas, Jasmyne Beckford, Mitch Cahn, Apryl Caldwell, Ida Chimbay, Barbara George-Johnson, Raul Gonzalez, Jonathan Kobza, Michael A. Marchetti, Angelique Morrison, Frank Preta, Janine Schaeffer, Rebecca Shulman, Dr. Stephanie Steplight Johnson, Rob Stramara and Willie Tolbert.

Meeting Called to Order: Chairperson Mitch Cahn

Mitch called the meeting to order. A roundtable roll call was conducted to introduce all meeting attendees. The July 26, 2018 minutes was approved by Johnathan Kobza (Aflac, Benefits Advisor) and seconded by Mitra Choudhury (Director, Training Inc., ECC). Mr. Cahn advised that John Kennedy (NJMEP & Advanced Manufacturing) will discuss on Pro-Action Education and apprenticeship programs.

Pro-Action Education & Apprenticeship Programs (NJMEP) - John Kennedy

Mr. Kennedy began discussing that the number one issue in manufacturing is the lack of skills and interest from individuals therefore, causing thirty-thousand jobs to be unfilled. He also mentioned that an apprenticeship program would take participants up to five years to learn the skills and get acclimated which is not an option for employers. MMSC is a nationally recognized credential for manufacturing, transportation and logistics, which is accepted across the country and highlighted by the Department of Labor.

Mr. Kennedy advised NJMEP was able to obtain \$250 thousand dollars from the Federal Government, however, the State has to match it which would allow NJMEP to run apprenticeship programs. Mr. Kennedy's goal would be to run apprenticeship programs in Trenton, Newark and Paterson which would be the three areas of focus. Underserved individuals would benefit from such program.

Participants would be linked to manufacturing companies, get hired as an apprentice and do on the job training. The following step is to have participants enroll in County College programs.

The issue is that the matriculation rate is rapidly decreasing and manufacturers are not investing in getting potential participant's training and education.

Mr. Kennedy advised if he is able to get the State to match the money then he would have half a million dollars to invest in this apprenticeship program.

The basis of the pro-action education is in need of coordination between the industry and educators. Mr. Kennedy advised NJMEP is trying to fill that gap and create a pilot program that focuses on the three areas previously mentioned. The goal is to not create jobs but, career pathways. Another issue mentioned is the lack of exposure to different career pathways to students.

There are 11,100 manufacturing companies throughout New Jersey and 370 thousand employees. Mr. Kennedy advised the annual salary for a manufacturing employee is \$80,000 which is higher than any other industry in addition to great benefits. Approximately 5 thousand jobs in Newark. National Manufacturing Day is October 5th in Somerset.

Ms. Beckford asked how Newark can tap into the half a million dollars and how to properly present it to the youth. Ms. Beckford advised a detailed diagram would help the youth grasp what manufacturing is, certifications needed in order to acquire an \$80,000.00 salary job. Mr. Kennedy suggested tours of the different manufacturing companies that the youth can visit and experience the world of manufacturing.

The half a million dollar would cover 250 students up to a year of training in a manufacturing company then followed by a County College program education. Ms. Beckford advised she would discuss the matter with the Newark Workforce Development Board's Executive Director and Manager of the Youth One-Stop to incorporate it in the Youth Summit in January.

Mr. Kennedy advised he will provide a flow chart on how to obtain a manufacturing job and obtain the \$80 thousand dollar job. He also advised a video is in the works.

Meeting adjourned by Mr. Cahn.