

# Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline Advanced Manufacturing Industry Forum

## Meeting Notes

Date: 10/22/2019, 9:00 a.m.

Location: Department of Labor and Industry, 443 Lafayette Rd, St. Paul, MN

Welcome and introductions; introduce new staff member and Pipeline Specialist Katherine Fischenich

### Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline Updates: Annie Welch

- Show new video and encouraged others to share
- Offered refresher on dual training and talked about PIPELINE's connection to Youth Skills Training

### Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline New Recognition Badge: Kathleen Gordon

- We are launching a new PIPELINE Program recognition badge for employers and how to apply for the recognition. We realize that there are many organizations who have successfully implemented a dual-training program for their employees.
- Companies who already use the Dual Training Grant program for funding will get notice that they are already recognized and do not have to apply. The application is for companies who do not.
- We also discussed how Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline partners in education can also be recognized with a PIPELINE Partner Badge.

### Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline Community Partnerships Conversation: Dan Solomon

Hosted a conversation with two prompting questions:

- Who do you currently connect with to help your workforce needs in the community?
- How can we better connect work of community-based organizations with employers to help find, train and retain talent?

Discussion offered that technical English as a learned language (ELL) is a huge need for community partnerships. Three examples:

1. One company is currently working with a non-profit called Great River and Pathways to Prosperity funding (administered by DEED) to offer their employees ELL training.
2. Another example shared was by the printing industry who is partnering with Twin Cities-based Avivo to get talent for work-readiness training.

3. The Anoka County Chamber of Commerce also discussed how they work extensively to promote partnerships and that community partnerships are key to employers meeting their workforce needs.

### New Occupations for Advanced Manufacturing: Dan Solomon

- Discussed potentially adding Extrusion Molding Technician and Injection Molding technician. Hope to get things ready in time to potentially add these by the February Industry Forum.

### Automation Conversation: Dan Solomon

- Attendees discussed how automation is impacting their manufacturing business in several different ways. One company shared that it is not really eliminating jobs but instead creating new positions with new robotics skill sets. Another company discussed the serious challenge it is creating for them as most of their workforce is not yet equipped with the skills necessary to run automation equipment. One other company shared how automation is being used for simple things like measuring and weighing items in ways that saves the company on staff time and in reduced potential for injuries.
- In-general most attendees seem to be embracing the future of automation and also interested in finding resources to help their companies as automation expands.
- Note: The Minnesota Job Skills Partnership (housed with DEED) offers grants to do some automation training as a potential resource (A-TIP).

### Dual Training Grant updates: Dan Solomon

- OHE awarded \$2.8 million in 2019 to 58 different companies with 35 in advanced manufacturing.
- The next Dual Training Grant Round 9 for new and existing employers will open for application on March 23, 2020 and close on May 1, 2020. (Contact [Jacquelynn.Mol.Sletten@state.mn.us](mailto:Jacquelynn.Mol.Sletten@state.mn.us) at the Office of Higher Education for more information). Award notices will be given out by June 15, 2019.
- Dual Training Grant workshops will be held in February and March of 2020.

### Next Steps

- Next Advanced Manufacturing Industry Forum: Early February 2020
- Speaker Series on December 5, 2019. If anyone has any ideas for speaker topics, please let us know.
- If anyone has suggestions for agenda items for next Industry Forum, please let us know.