



St. Petersburg College



Florida TRADE Grant

Business Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 3, 2015

1. Patricia Gehant, Tampa Bay Technology Forum, Workforce Initiative
 - a. Exploratory Labs Boot Camp
 - b. Is there a need for this in manufacturing and engineering?
 - c. Can this be customized to manufacturing and engineering?

Ms. Gehant gave a presentation about Exploratory Labs Boot Camp and the 2 cohorts that have been served to date. The entrance criteria emphasized college student so that they were accustomed to absorbing a lot of information in a short amount of time. The per student cost is estimated at about \$1,000 and companies can provide scholarships depending on what their hiring needs are. Probably Day 4 is most easily customized and includes career exploration presentations from local businesses. Completers are promised internship, but there is no guarantee for hire. The next session is planned for May and June.

Jerry Custin (UTBMA) suggested that manufacturing may wish to lower the paradigm, adjust the entry criteria to not include degrees, that we may wish to involve high school students, too. Ms. Gehant said that we might think about 3 cohorts: 1) professional/ college, 2) technician, and 3) high school, but that a mixed cohort would provide diversity of experience and culture. Lara Sharp (AS-ET director) agreed, 1) university, 2) state college, and 3) high school, and added that this would be a great way to show young persons how high tech manufacturing is. Mike Brewster (Monin) observed that Day 2 is all technology, but that not all may apply to manufacturing, and asked if some of this Day could be targeted at manufacturing. Jerry Custin brought up the fact that there are different kinds of manufacturers: 1) direct, 2) process, and 3) hybrid. Lara Sharp suggested that we have a focus group to determine commonalities for local manufacturing businesses to include in a specialized curriculum. Special topics might include supply chain/ logistics, quality assurance, production processes, and technology. Jill Flansburg (Florida TRADE at SPC) informed that the federal grant is coming to an end, so if we would like to customize the curriculum to address manufacturing hiring needs, Florida TRADE can only pay subject matter experts until March 2016.

Susan Garrett (Workforce Institute at SPC) informed about the drone training that is new and upcoming for St. Petersburg College, as well as additional short-term training that is being planned, such as business analytics.

Marta Przyborowski (LiNCS Supply Chain at SPC) gave an update of this federal Department of Labor grant, announcing that the 100th certification had been awarded, and that Florida TRADE and LiNCS will be hosting a job fair in March 2016 at EpiCenter.

We will meet again in January to hear from Career Edge about opportunities for manufacturing internships. Please look for a Doodle poll to choose the date.