

Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline Advanced Manufacturing Industry Forum

Meeting Notes

Date: February 5, 2020: 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

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

Welcome and introductions

Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline Updates: Dan Solomon & Kathleen Gordon

- Offered refresher on general principles of Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline.
- Gave update on last speaker series event held on December 5, 2019 that was about Good Mental Health in the Workplace; reminded attendees that Pipeline staff are always looking to bring in new speakers and new topics and open to suggestions.
- Provided update on Community Conversations that occurred in December 2019 and January 2020, noting that key observations included lack of access to childcare, lack of affordable housing, challenges of low unemployment in general and an often-cited desire to better align high school education opportunities with real world work experiences. Advanced Manufacturing attendees also noted particular struggles with finding skilled labor in automation processes.

Dual-Training Success Break-Out Sessions and Sharing: Two Manufacturing Companies

- All of the in-person attendees heard from Mike Yeager, Owner of Yeager Machine in Norwood Young America and Heather Piehl, Human Resources leader at Yeager Machine. Mike and Heather shared about their precision manufacturing company and how they have seen successes with Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline.
- All of the webinar attendees heard from Beth Metzger of Ultra Machining Company (UMC) in Monticello. Beth shared about how UMC has utilized Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline since the beginning of the program and continue to see it help build their workforce and recruit new talent to the company.
- There were several takeaways from the discussion. One attendee noted that it is helpful to exercise flexibility when setting up a dual-training program for a small group of people or for a large group. Another noted that it is helpful to access DLI or OHE staff who can assist with setting up the dual-training program and support with applying for the dual training grant.

New Occupations: Dan Solomon

Dan Solomon shared that two new manufacturing occupations will be added for 2020. Dan also described that Pipeline is always interested in adding new in-demand occupations. In addition, attendees discussed the potential for adding occupations related to robotics and automation in the future; the Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline team will begin to research those occupations.

- Extrusion Molding Technician
- Injection Molding Technician

Dual Training Grant Update: Dan Solomon

- OHE awarded \$2.8 million in 2019 to 58 different companies with 2 in agriculture.
- 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 at the Office of Higher Education for more information). Award notices will be given out by June 15, 2019.
- Dual Training Grant workshops with four workshops scheduled from February 18 through April 9.

Next Steps

- Next All-Industry Forum on June 15, 2020
- Speaker Series on March 12, 2020. If anyone has any ideas for future speaker topics, please let us know.
- If anyone has suggestions for agenda items for the next Industry Forum, please let us know.