

2019/2020 Manufacture CoHort Recap:

Launched the 2019/2020 Manufacturing CoHort Season:

October, Manufacturing month, was supported with a major workforce rally and outreach to the community.

- Anoka Area Chamber Manufacturing CoHort member, Safety Speed, in Ham Lake, hosted a manufacturing rally.
- Featured keynote address from Governor Tim Walz.
- Department of Labor Commissioner Nancy Leppink, spoke on industry trends.
- Independent School District 11 Superintendent, David Law, informed the audience on K12 readiness efforts.
- Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce Manufacturing Director, John LeTourneau, presented on Local Manufacturing and its impact on the community.

Industry Topic Automation:

January CoHort – Automation, Hosted by Trusted Partner, Rapid Packaging.

- Acted upon the request of the Automation CoHort meeting to do an automation assessment of CoHort members. The outcome of this assessment will inform future CoHort activity on meeting the demand and challenges with automation integration.

Industry Topic Workforce Readiness:

Traveled to Colorado to tour the MiLL, Manufacturing Industry Learning Lab:

- The MiLL is a massive group effort between school districts, professionals, and industry partners.
- This national training center is focused on empowering the next generation of leaders.
- Be trained in the industry's most sophisticated machinery.
- Gain skills that will transfer to various manufacturing industries.
- Receive national certification and be ready to hire after completion.
- Use your training to build a solid career and future for yourself and loved ones.

Broadly looking to answer the question on our willingness or interest in scaling something like this to serve manufacturing in our region.

Workforce CTE, Equity and Inclusion:

November 2019, Traveled to Washington DC, by invitation of Bi-partisan House Career and Technical Education (CTE) caucus. Presented on the topic of Increasing Access and Equity in Career & Technical Education.

- Created a picture of how the Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce Manufacture CoHort is representing best practices in the community with collaboration and focused efforts in support of workforce and the manufacturing industry.
- Career and technical education (CTE) programs provide students with pathways to high-skill, high-paying careers in in-demand industries.
- Ensuring that all students have access to high-quality programs must be a priority for policymakers.
- Shared that, in Minnesota, Youth Skills Training is an effective way to support efforts in career and technical education for students through providing them with meaningful and safe paid work experiences paired with related education at their high school.

Continued to expand the outreach with local school districts and tech college.

- Continue the discussion on process to best utilize workforce capacity that resides in different socioeconomic sub-groups.
- Specific address to these sub-groups in the K12 population. Focus on removing barriers to success that show up as challenges to how students have access to opportunities and how to best meet their learning needs from where they are at.

The outcomes brought insight into aligning local resources to accommodate the “non-traditional” learner. Peeling back barriers around technology, in person learning, non-traditional learning times and lifestyle challenges effecting success in coursework. These techniques and practices are imbedded in the curriculum now, and an additional level of awareness to solving new barriers is now also present in the learning culture.

COVID 19 – Pandemic

Mid-March until year end:

- Outreach to become available to everyone in the CoHort on any questions or resources locally, state, federal level in support of the “shutdown” phase of this pandemic.
- The Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce and the Manufacture CoHort transformed into a very reliable resource for PPP application challenges and questions.
- Supported many of the Manufacturing CoHort with direct connections to lending institutions that would configure and navigate the PPP loan process.
- Assisted with PPE readiness and demand, worked with local health care providers and government to “solve” COVID related planning.
- Opened multiple conversations with CoHort members on applications for CARES monies.
- July Manufacturing CoHort: COVID and Manufacturing.
 - Where we have been?
 - How has the past few months affected us?
 - What are some of the ways that we have adapted?
 - What will be the next direction for our industry? Can we be a futurist?
 - And, ultimately, how can we support each other moving forward?

During unprecedented disruption, the Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce and the Manufacturing CoHort effort supported local business by holding communication open, advocating for business, acting as a reliable trusted local resource as well as a sounding board for the frustration that continues inside of this difficult time.

Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry

Continue to partner and represent the multitude of resource opportunities that are offered by the MN Dpt of Labor.

- Served a second term on the review board for the MN Pipeline Dual Training grants.
 - The office of higher education had officially received and processed 64 applications totaling more than \$3.7M in grant requests.
- Shared, and attended with many of the CoHort members, several of the MN Dual Training Pipeline Speaker Series.
 - Topics on: Exploring the intersections between the work of equity and inclusion .., Industry workforce trends, discussion on how Pipeline can enhance company diversity, business mentoring and networking etc.

An Amazing Connection to Education and Workforce Need

Responded and interacted to a request from Manufacture CoHort Trusted Partner, The Village Bank, to identify and meet the need of someone in the community with a monetary donation.

- Reached out to the Anoka Technical College to see if there were unmet needs in the student population.
- Specifically found two PSEO students who were short on resources and were in need of some gear that would support their education and industry training. If not but for this donation, these students would have been challenged to perform at the appropriate level of other students. They would have been hindered by using borrowed tools or sharing of tools. Because of their age and the lack of access to personal resources, these students would struggle in course work.
- Coordinated with the students/instructors/vendor and Village Bank to secure a list of materials and tools that the students could own, and not only use in their course work, but also use throughout their careers.
- Early in December a meeting was arranged to present the students with these materials and tools. Everyone that was involved was able to see how the students would use these tools and how much this donation meant to them and the development of the skills that support good careers in manufacturing.