

**NEW Manufacturing Alliance**  
**STEM TASK FORCE – WEBEX MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, July 22, 2020 – 3:00 to 4:00 PM**

**ATTENDEES:** Carol Bredesen-Amcor, Andy Bushmaker-KI, Scott Herron-New Resources Consulting, Steve Meyer-FVTC, Sara Schewe-Jacobs, Anne Troka-Sargento Foods Inc., Haley Vandenhouten-Jacobs, Dave Whedon-Pioneer Metal Finishing, Brian Witt-Ariens Co., Ann Franz-NEWMA, Debbie Thompson-NWTC

### **COVID-19**

As an essential business, Ariens Co. stayed open through the entire shutdown period and have had one of their best years historically. Some of their office workers spent a month working from home. Currently, there are no mask mandates, everyone enters through a common door and has their temperature taken. Physical distancing is practiced, with most meetings hosted virtually. Some employees are traveling with restrictions.

Wearing masks is voluntary at KI, unless employees are less than 6' apart. Office workers are slowly coming back. By next week everyone should be back in the office. There is uncertainty, as KI does a lot of work for the school systems.

Amcor is an essential business and did not shutdown. It has been business as usual. Some areas of their business have increased, while others have decreased. Currently, there is no mask mandate, employees maintain social distance and are physically limited to the buildings they work in. The company has had COVID cases. If an employee has been exposed, they must quarantine for five days and then have an onsite COVID test if they are not showing symptoms. If the result is negative, they can return to work. Amcor is also working to keep people healthy outside of the workplace. Employees have resumed working volunteer opportunities.

Pioneer Metal Finishing administers a daily short survey and temperature check to all employees and visitors. Sargento is planning for different scenarios. Childcare options are difficult and will be hard on businesses and home life.

FVTC has been conducting classes throughout summer since mid-June. Some of the classes and open labs are to make-up for lost time from last semester. In-person classes are limited to 9 students and 1 instructor. All onsite students and instructors wear masks and check-in. The fall semester begins in mid-August and will likely involve more self-checking. Steve also shared some startup concerns of the K-12 system. All the schools are adopting somewhat different plans, including alternatives. Virtual students can easily fall behind. There are also concerns regarding how it will be handled if a teacher or student contracts COVID. The number of K-12 substitute teachers is limited. Elementary schools are mostly holding in-person classes, while the middle and high schools will be predominantly virtual or blended.

### **2020 GET REAL MATH & NEW GET REAL SCIENCE VIDEOS (GRM/S)**

60 GRM videos have been produced. No new videos will be filmed this year. Instead, a few of the existing videos are being repurposed to include science. Beginning in 2021, science videos will be filmed.

At May's STEM Task Force meeting, members discussed alternatives for the October Premiere that would feature the repurposed videos. It was decided to host a virtual event with science and math teachers. The teachers can give input as to what they would like featured in the science videos. Zoom breakout sessions can be held, giving educators a chance to talk amongst themselves. Task Force members would take notes at the breakout sessions. The group can then unite to share feedback. Sessions can be recorded and shared. Conducting virtual career exploration was discussed as a potential topic.

Ann will follow-up with educators for topic ideas, in addition to Ryan Peterson of Brillion High School who will be working on the science lesson plans.

### **9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE FEMALE STEM EVENT & OTHER PROGRAMMING TO PROMOTE STEM/NONTRADITIONAL CLASSES**

INSPIRE Sheboygan County, school counselors and employers collaborated to conduct virtual job shadows last spring. Anne Troka shared that Sargento participated and provided an overview. Students from all over Wisconsin registered

through INSPIRE's website and participated. A video plant tour was provided. The virtual aspect removed the student fear factor of meeting with adults. It was well attended and can be replicated.

The Alliance will collaborate to conduct similar virtual female STEM job shadows, with breakout sessions. Different companies and occupations can be featured possibly once a week on Fridays. YouTube Live can be used. STEM Task Force members and Manufacturing First Conference companies that are part of the career exploration event can be recruited to participate.

The Manufacturing First Conference will be held virtually this year. High school students will be offered a virtual career exploration experience on Friday, 10/23. For two hours, students can virtually go to different booths to discuss careers with company reps. Students will be given questions they can ask the career speaker, or they can ask their own questions. Ann is working with the tech ed teachers to identify student participants. Students will have an agenda and choose the careers they want to learn more about. Females working in STEM occupations are encouraged to participate. A student contest can be part of the program.

The virtual ACP meeting can be used to discuss hot topics of importance (i.e. virtual learning) to administrators, counselors and tech ed teachers, including a focus on ACP. The goal of the meeting is to provide a forum for educators to discuss what is and isn't working with the restrictions on schools due to the pandemic. The program would also include resources the Alliance has that can assist schools now and learn what other resources are needed. The ACP toolkit will be sent to schools electronically, along with a list of upcoming Alliance events.

### Next Steps

- ✓ Develop a list of companies that are interested in providing a virtual job shadow(s).
- ✓ In September, host an ACP meeting with administrators, counselors and tech ed teachers.
  - Share October programming and how it can be accessed.
  - Create a step-by-step video.
  - Communicate three best practices.
- ✓ In October, host a meeting for science and math teachers. Showcase the companies and provide a working template.

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STEM VIDEOS

This topic is tabled.

### UPCOMING ALLIANCE EVENTS

**Internship Draft Day** has been finalized for Tuesday, November 10. Students will attend virtually, using the Career Fair Plus app. With the students attending virtually, it is hoped more local students that are attending colleges outside the region will attend. The event will also be live at Lambeau Field and will host college speakers. Companies that sponsor can give a five minute presentation about their organization. Mark Murphy will be asked to announce the top picks.

The **K-12 Outreach Survey** will be administered to member manufacturers in early August to identify their partnership interests (including virtual) at their desired school districts. This data is part of the ACP manufacturing careers toolkits.

### NEXT MEETING DATE/TIME/AGENDA

The next STEM Task Force meeting will be held tentatively at Ariens Co. and via WebEx on Wednesday, August 19, 2020.

Agenda:

- ✓ Tour of Museum
- ✓ 2020 Get Real Math/Science Videos and October science/math teacher event
- ✓ Female STEM Event & Virtual Career Speakers/Job Shadows
- ✓ ACP September event
- ✓ Upcoming Alliance Events
- ✓ Next Meeting Date/Time/Location/Agenda