

**St. Charles County  
Workforce Development Board**

**Manufacturing Task Force**

**Mission Statement:**

**The St. Charles County Workforce Development System is an alliance of public and private leaders dedicated to moving careers, companies and communities forward through workforce development that impacts local wages, economic development that impacts local business investment and community development that impacts the local tax base.**

**Committee:** Manufacturing Task Force (August 24, 2022)

**Attending Manufacturing Taskforce**

**WDB Members:** Michael Hurlbert, Amanda Sizemore and Scott Tate

**Attending**

**Manufacturing Task Force Members:**

Pat Brown, Fort Zumwalt School District  
Patty Brown, City of O'Fallon  
Scott Drachnik – EDC of St. Charles County  
Kathy Duck, O'Fallon Chamber of Commerce  
Diana Forbes- General Motors  
Theresa Matlock, Newco Coffee  
Debbie Muraski – National Cart  
Jason Quinn, QTE Manufacturing  
John Pollihan, Component Bar  
Louis Pounds, SAK Construction  
Julie Powers, City of St. Peters  
Jeremy Sutton- BCI Skills Center  
Dina Wehde – Woodbridge Group

**Attending Guests:**

Sandra Lay, RB  
Jake Sommerich, RB  
Erica Land, St. Charles County CAPS

**Staff:** Lori Myers

**1. Welcome/Comments**

Michael Hurlbert welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

**2. Approve Task Force Meeting Minutes from June 22, 2022**

The minutes from the June 22, 2022, meeting were reviewed. Louis Pounds made a motion to accept the minutes. Amanda Sizemore seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Minutes approved.

**3. Presentation – St. Charles County CAPS by Erica Land**

Erica Land provided some background information to the CAPS program. There are currently three strands including Global Business/Entrepreneurship, Healthcare and Technology Solutions (IT and Creative Media). She covered how the semesters are structured for students and how they benefit from the program. Business are encouraged to get involved by hosting a class for a site visit, being a guest speaker, providing project work, donate to the program, provide an unpaid internship and spreading the word about the program. Erica indicated that she is currently working to develop a manufacturing strand.

#### **4. Presentation – GM Community Survey by Diana Forbes**

Diana indicated that GM recently conducted a survey of 900+ adults across three priority communities including Wentzville. She discussed the key takeaways:

- Residents feel positive about the future of Wentzville
- Residents believe tech jobs will be more important than traditional manufacturing or advanced tech in manufacturing
- 93% of residents believe upskilling the workforce is important
- 60% believe businesses provide strong career opportunities

GM's commitment to workforce development includes upskilling the workforce, advancing inclusion by identifying new talent sources, engaging community stakeholders, and supporting initiatives to prepare our communities for jobs of the future.

#### **5. Manufacturing Day 2022 Update**

Manufacturing Day 2022 is scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am to 1:30pm at the St. Charles Community College. A Sponsorships and Opportunities form was provided to all attending members. Lori indicated that as of 8/15, the event had 4 sponsors, 7 tour sites and 10 booth participants. Task Force members were encouraged to support the event if they are not already involved.

#### **6. Local Workforce & Economic Development Update**

Lori gave an update on the latest local unemployment numbers. June had an unemployment rate of 1.9% down from 2.3% in May for St. Charles County. Labor force participations numbers decreased from 229,472 in May to 229,227 in June. Michael provided an update on housing data in St. Charles County. Overall, the residential permit pace for this year continues to increase over 2021. Single-family numbers closed the gap in July but are still off of last year's pace. For a second consecutive month, there were no multi-family permits reported. New commercial permits significantly jumped this month and are now ahead of last year's pace.

#### **7. Next Meeting Date:**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2022, at 12:00 p.m.

#### **8. Adjournment**

Julie Powers made a motion to adjourn. Jason Quinn seconded it. All were in favor.