

# MINUTES

The Upper Mississippi Manufacturers Alliance (TUMMA) K12 Taskforce  
Thursday – May 14, 2020 2pm-3pm **ZOOM Meeting due to COVID-19**

John Belmonte called meeting to order at 2:05pm

## Attendees:

John Belmonte (Mitotec), Matt Simpson (Trane), Kelly Laufenberg (Inland), Lisa Chellew (SE MN), Matt Nundahl (WDB), Melisa Myers (WDB), Tyler Ludeking (Western Technical College), Melissa Kendhammer (Apprenticeship ATR), Amanda Langrehr (CESA4), Joel Mindham (CESA5), Lindsey Seipp (Holmen), Tom Chambers (Black River Falls), Ed Pedritti (Westby), Ed Johnson (NECAL), Ben Morey (New Lisbon), Aaron Ottum (GET), Jared Schaffner (Onalaska), Brian Cashman (Goodhue, MN County Education District), Tonya Kortowski (Necedah), Erik Sjolander (WKBT), Jim Dillin (Mauston), Mike Borreson (Mauston), Steve Johnson (Central), Chris Stalheim (SE MN), Lisa Kosin (LB White)

## 2020 K12 Taskforce Planning Key Areas

Group achievable goals for 2020 reminders

The following were identified as areas of focus:

- Educate and update TUMMA members on INSPIRE and XELLO
- Continue Tech Ed / TUMMA events in spring and fall. Spring 2020
- Target students with manufacturing career info at HS class registration time (Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec timeframe) and look for community events and school events to promote manufacturing careers at these events
- Award TUMMA scholarships and attend scholarship award nights at high schools to present them
- Continue to penetrate high school and middle school career pathway discussions with students, teachers and parents about manufacturing career benefits and opportunities

## Agenda Items

### FAB LAB support and updates

New Lisbon, Mauston, and Westby High Schools reported on their awards and plans  
John Belmonte and Matt Simpson offered TUMMA's assistance and support as schools begin to look at equipment, writing for grants, support at meetings, and any other way.  
Schools excited to be able to offer advance technology and exposure to manufacturing careers

TUMMA Letters of Support – Kevin Reported that TUMMA wrote two letters of support since last mtg.

CESA4 Regional Career Pathways grant application

Tomah High School advance technology equipment grant application

Tomah however did not end up submitting for the grant due to uncertainty with COVID 19

### CESA 4 Updates

XELLO / INSPIRE update

Amanda reported that XELLO is being used more due to home schooling; INSPIRE is still a work in progress; but she did write into the career pathways grant an INSPIRE coordinator  
Regional Career Pathways grant application update

Amanda reported that the grant was submitted and should hear something back by June  
YA program and updates on placement of students

Amanda reported YA programs continue to be strong; even with COVID 19

Employers are reporting how great the students have been through this trying time

## CESA 5 Updates

Career pathways and programs for summer and fall

Joel reported that they were part of the pilot program for the career pathways; they are now going into their fourth year. He said they will be starting an IT pathway that should blend in well with the manufacturing pathway.

YA program and updates on placement of students

Joel reported great numbers of YA students and manufacturers are opening up to the idea.

Joel reported that YA students will have until the end of September 2020 to get hours in.

## Update on TUMMA scholarships

Kevin reported that TUMMA was able to award six \$500 scholarships in this first year.

Onalaska received two, Holmen received one, Bangor received one, Sparta received one, and then an adult returning to school was awarded.

Western Technical College was not able to tell us how many applied due to the system dismissing those that didn't meet the criteria. Kevin will try to get photos of each for facebook and website.

John Belmonte stated that we are going to explore additional tech colleges for next year as options for those that are far away from LaCrosse.

## K-12 Educator tour of local manufacturing facilities for fall 2020

Matt and Kevin reported the plan to partner with Western Technical College on getting educators into area manufacturers in the fall of 2020. Due to COVID 19 the plans have been put on hold until the schools have more time to discuss this once they know their fall plan.

A video tour was suggested; but it may be possible that students may be "video'd out" by fall. Possibly a two person panel or in person demonstration with proper social distancing

## Youth apprenticeships and E3 Works! - programs working with host companies

Matt Nundahl from Workforce Development Board reviewed the work experience program for students ages 16 to 24 years old. Possible virtual internships or work experiences may be an option as we work through the next couple months.

## "Round the room"

### K12 interaction challenges due to COVID 19; updates

John Belmonte asked the group to give feedback on challenges, ideas, and other topics due to the COVID 19 situation. John mentioned they had an event in his facility cancelled and is looking for ideas to reach students, educators, and more importantly parents. The COVID 19 situation has offered the opportunity for manufacturers to show that they are essential.

Jim from Mauston reported the plans to host a Mini Business World that was cancelled; but WMC has this great model to use to develop a TUMMA option.

Steve from Central encouraged ideas for the fall; but right now they are just focused on the current school year. Steve suggested more discussion in the summer months.

Tom Chambers, Lindsey Seipp, Jarad, and others shared their current situation at their schools.

Overall the comments were positive about working with TUMMA, but all will need to be developed as this group stays connected through the summer. Hands on or in person done safely will be greatly by students as they want to do hands on and talk to experts in person.

Group encouraged more ZOOM meetings so that more can attend and stay involved.