

**Manufacturing Innovation Advisory Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Department of Economic and Community Development**  
March 18, 2025  
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM  
*via Teams meeting*

**Attendance**

- **Board Members Present:** Paul Lavoie, Hannah Belmont, Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Dave Cremin, Mike Rocheleau, Mark Burzynski, Lydia Blanche, *Delegate-Dustin Nord* (CBIA) standing for Chris DePentima.  
Quorum: Yes  
Absent: Colin Cooper, John Zoldy, Chris DePentima (Delegate attended in his stead), Emir Redzic
- **Stakeholders & Guests:** Rich DuPont (AMHoF), Mary Bidwell (ACC), Adam Rodriguez (FORGE), Laura Teicher (FORGE), Anya Losik (FORGE), Kerry Markey (CCTECH), Mia Pasquariello (Cronin), Kate Anderson (Cronin), Suzanne Carbonella (Cronin), Ann Marie Kemp (Cronin), Paul Striebel (CCAT), Debra Morgan (CCAT), Ron Angelo (CCAT), John Glidden (CCAT), Bernice Zampano (CONNSTEP), Barbara Fernandez (CONNSTEP), Beatriz Gutierrez (CONNSTEP), Tracy Ariel (OWS), Deb Presbie (ReadyCT), Lisa Nollman (ReadyCT),
- **DECD Staff:** Michelle Hall, Cindy Hetu, Carmen Molina-Rios, Carla Rae Rodriguez, Yvonne Zhao, Kyle Abercrombie

1. **Welcome** – Meeting was brought to order by Paul Lavoie at 1:04pm.
2. **Meeting Minutes 2/18/25 (VOTE)** – Motion to approve made by Paul Lavoie. Moved by Mark Burzynski, seconded by Lydia Blanche.
3. **Review - Program Budget**
4. **Update & Proposal - Product Accelerator Program - FORGE (VOTE)** Motion to fund FORGE at the budgeted amount made by Paul Lavoie. Moved by Mike Rocheleau, seconded by David Cremen. Motion passed unanimously. Mike Rocheleau would like to have numbers and data with relation to how to better reach more manufacturers. Reaching 60 manufacturers out of 4600 can be improved. What is the current method that is being used to reach out to manufacturers who would benefit from FORGE and its resources and capital?
5. **Update - I Got It Made Marketing Campaign – Cronin**
6. **Discussion - College Connections** – Update and presentation by Mary Bidwell and Rich DuPont.

7. **Discussion – Apprenticeship – P & G (VOTE)** – Motion to approve changing current guidelines from several reimbursements to one payout of \$15,000 at the completion of the Apprenticeship made by Paul Lavoie. Discussion followed. Motion failed with 6 Nay and one abstained.
8. **Alternate Date** - May meeting date conflict – Several members will be attending a large manufacturing event on 5/20. 5/28; 1 – 2:30pm was the consensus with the group for the rescheduling date.
9. **Motion to adjourn** made at by Paul Lavoie at 2:31pm. Moved by Mike Rocheleau, seconded by Mark Burzynski. Motion carried.