

Manufacturing Innovation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Department of Economic and Community Development
January 18, 2024
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM
via Teams meeting

Attendance

- Board Members Present: Paul Lavoie, Chris DiPentima, Hannah Belmont, Kelli Vallieres, John Zoldy, Mark Burzynski, Mike Rocheleau, Dave Cremin, Colin Cooper
- Board Members Absent: Raquel Rivera and Emir Redzic
- Quorum: Yes
- Stakeholders & Guests: Ron Angelo (CCAT), Barbara Fernandez (CONNSTEP), Bernice Zampano (CONNSTEP), Michael DiDonato (UConn), Amy Thompson (CCAT), Onyeka Obiocha (CTNext), Jeff Orszak (CONNSTEP), Adam Rodriguez (FORGE), Laura Teicher (FORGE), Liz Firgeleski, Jeremy Bronen (SEDMED), and Richard DuPont (HCC)
- DECD Staff: Michelle Hall, Cindy Hetu, Lakisha Pryor

1. **Welcome**

- Meeting was brought to order by Paul Lavoie at 1:04pm

2. **12/14/23 Meeting Minutes** - Motion made by Paul Lavoie to approve 12/14/23 minutes. Moved by Michael Rocheleau, David Cremin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. **MVP Qualification Discussion** – Consensus that the Board wants to leave the guidelines alone, but possibly look at another way to provide monies for companies that fit into the 6 cases raised by Paul Lavoie. Michelle and Paul will take a look at a program that might fit MIF to at least address these cases. If it does not carry, it moves on to the Office of Innovation. This is our opportunity to look at how we support the reshoring and growth of new businesses while ensuring the intended outcome is reached and to ensure the money is being used for what it was originally requested for.

4. **Budget Recap** – There are 2 programs with a 90-day no-cost extensions: AVP and SAC

5. **NEW! Faculty Fellowship Program** – VOTE Motion made by Paul Lavoie to accept the 1-year, \$283,000 pilot “Faculty Fellowship Program” (FFP) presented by Amy Thompson (CCAT). Moved by Michael Rocheleau, seconded by Mark Burzynski. Motion passed unanimously.

6. **NEW! Apprenticeship 2.0** – Internal project and tabled to next meeting due to time constraints.

7. **FORGE Innovator Matching Program Review**

8. **NEW! Product Development Program** - VOTE Motion made by Paul Lavoie to accept the CTNext 1-year \$811,800 “Product Accelerator Program” by FORGE. Moved by John Zoldy, seconded by Michael Rocheleau. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

- **Vote:** Motion to adjourn made at 2:35 pm by Paul Lavoie. Moved by Michael Rocheleau, seconded by Kelli Vallieres. Motion approved.