

**Manufacturing Innovation Advisory Board**  
***Meeting Minutes***  
**Department of Economic and Community Development**  
June 20, 2024  
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM  
*via Teams meeting*

**Attendance**

- Board Members Present: Paul Lavoie, John Zoldy, Mike Rocheleau, Hannah Belmont Emir Redzic, Dave Cremin, Kelli-Marie Vallieres and Chris DiPentima.  
Board Members Absent: Raquel Rivera, Mark Burzynski, Colin Cooper  
Quorum: Yes
  - Stakeholders & Guests: Paul Striebel (CCAT), Joe Budd (CBIA), John Glidden (CCAT), Mike Stimson (Guest), Gael Tannenbaum (Guest), Colleen Bielitz (Guest), Ron Angelo (CCAT), Beatriz Gutierrez
  - DECD Staff: Cindy Hetu, Lakisha Pryor, Carmen Molina-Reyes, Carla Rae Rodriguez
1. **Welcome** – Meeting was brought to order by Paul Lavoie at 1:15pm.
  2. **5/15/24 Meeting Minutes\*** - Motion to approve 5/15/24 minutes by Paul Lavoie. Moved by Michael Rocheleau, seconded by Hannah Belmont. Motion passed unanimously.
  3. **Budget update was provided by Paul.**
  4. **Apprenticeship Program** –A subcommittee meeting was held on 6/3/24. The update was presented by Paul Striebel. The program expires at the end of December 2024. The funding allotment was \$940,000, with \$773,000 awarded so far and a balance of \$106,000. The monthly run rate is approximately \$84,000. At this run rate, there is less than 2 months of funding left and the program has less than 2 months of funding left. This program will not have enough funding to make it to the end of its term. The promotion of this program led to a higher number of applications and apprentices in the program. The agreement that Apprenticeship Reimbursement was a good program, but difference of opinion as to how the program will be funded in the future.
  5. **Apprenticeship Proposal** – An addition of \$500,000 to the program would fund it to the end of the current year. Discussion was also held about the future of the program in 2025 and communication to participants. It was agreed that participants should be notified but the concern was also raised about this communication potentially discouraging new and continuing participants. Motion to fund the program with \$500,000 to make it to the end of the year was made by David Cremen and seconded by Michael Rocheleau. Motion passed unanimously.
  6. **STEM Women Mentorship Portal** - update provided by Colleen Bielitz about the Mentor portal which was created to empower women in STEM through mentorship. Though the program has not yet gone live, there are already 30 women ready and waiting to register.
  7. **The Manufacturing Shake-Up! Podcast Series** – update provided by Gael Tannenbaum on the new *Manufacturing Shake-up Podcast*. This is another program aimed at assisting women in encouraging each other by offering bite-size, snackable content. These brief podcasts last less than 20 minutes and are purposely short in order to enable women the opportunity to listen and

learn while going about their busy daily lives and all that those lives entail. Busy lives and juggling family commitments resonates with most women; and that has been considered. Different women in varying manufacturing roles will be recorded to spotlight a woman in as many different roles as possible. See her / be her. The premise is that if a woman sees another woman that they admire, that can listen to these podcasts and learn, using her story as a guide with her personal career journey.

8. **Adjourn** -\_Motion to adjourn made at 2:10pm by Paul Lavoie. Moved by Michael Rocheleau, seconded by Kelli Vallieres. Motion carried.