

Specialty Manufacturing Cluster CLUSTER MINUTES

Date and Venue: January 18, 2008 RGT Industries, Inc.

Speakers, Topics, and Key Points:

Panelists: George Cleaver, Director of MCC's
Business Department
Michael Johnston, Director Student
Services, Keiser University
Dr. Sunita Ludwig, Information Technology
Department, USF Sarasota –Manatee Campus
Dr. Jonathan Earle, Associate Dean, College of
Engineering, University of Florida

Panel Discussion:

Learn about Workforce and Internship Programs offered at our Local Colleges

Key Points:

Keeping up with the needs of the Business Community.

Modifying courses to keep skills up with today's workforce such as an Information Security Course that is now available.

Land Grants provided to support Economic Development

Colleges are working with Community Colleges to assist students in continuing their education and allowing credits to follow a student when moving on.

Increased flexibility with the way courses are given such as physical attendance courses, online courses, or a combination of both.

Sub Group Reports: No subgroup report.

Next Steps (Follow-Up):

Our panelists suggested that all the businesses attending today's meeting consider taking on a least one intern during their busy time instead of hiring part-time people.

Some links mentioned:

Dr. Jonathan Earle's engineering portion of the University of Florida's website is www.eng.ufl.edu

Dr. Sunita Ludwig, University of South Florida www.sarasota.usf.edu

Michael Johnston, Keiser University, www.keiseruniversity.edu

George Cleaver, Manatee Community College, www.mccfl.edu

Comments:

"Really liked the program with four presenters."

"Might enhance with more interactive panel discussions."

EDC, Suncoast Workforce Board and presenters will collaborate on a formal internship program.

Next Meeting Date: TBD