Industry Forum / Advisory Committee

Industrial Automation at College of the Sequoias

September 21, 2016

12:30pm-2:30pm

College of the Sequoias

Hanford Education Center

Hanford, CA

Present:

JT Maldonado, Marquez Brothers; Joe Kupcha, Saputo; Andreas Deurig, ProcessTec; Brandy Duren, Chris Reitz, & Jaime Ayala, Aerotek; John Noell, Nichols Farms; Jim Gregory; Jason Hopper, Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County; Joel Williams & Daniel Anderson, Bluescope Buildings; Jason Horne, Central Valley Meats; Rodney Wilson, Steven Ray, Jason Vazzano, & Jon Wiseman, Electric Motor Shop; Stephanie Thieseen, John Wright, & Jason Highfill, Munger Farms; Kristin Robinson, Jennifer La Serna, Thad Russell, Scott Williams, Jorge Zegarra, Mario Bringetto, & Gurminder Sangha, COS; John Lehn, Kings County EDC and JTC; Dan Martin, Nestle Dryers; Jay Salyer, Kings County EDC; Mike Kipp, Pacific Southwest Container; Richard Williams & Karen Holland, Voltage Multiplier; Dan Williamson, Joe Brown, & Shawna Emery, Leprino Foods.

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| Topic | Discussion | Next Steps |
| Welcome and Background | Shawna and Dan Williamson from Leprino introduced the reasons for calling this meeting. Several manufacturing companies in Tulare and Kings Counties approached COS regarding the need to develop a more highly skilled pipeline for advanced manufacturing technicians or Automation Technicians. This meeting is to confirm the needs are broad and that companies in the two-county region would commit to hiring graduates and commit to upskilling employees in an Industrial Automation program. |  |
| Expressed Needs related by industry partners | Thad Russell from COS related the recent partner discussions and the requested skill sets expressed by those partners. Some partners included: California Dairies, Leprino Foods, Nestle Dryers, & County of Tulare. Handouts were distributed listing possible skills to be considered. Each industry partner was then encouraged to relate their thoughts and suggest edits to the skills list. Voltage Mulitplier suggested their immediate workforce needs would not be addressed through the development of a new program as suggested by other meeting participants. Every other partner expressed a strong, immediate need, support and commitment to an advanced manufacturing program. |  |
| Conclusions | Partners confirmed a desperate need to locally address the workforce shortage in advanced manufacturing. | COS will work with manufacturers in the two-county region to develop and offer an Industrial Automation program.  First step will be to collect feedback over the next few weeks from all participants regarding skill priorities. |
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