

Lehigh Valley Manufacturing & Supply Chain Industry Partnership - Meeting Minutes

Meeting 8 | Monday, May 18, 2026 | 2:00PM-3:30PM

Participants:

Organization	First Name	Last Name
Allentown EDC	Lauren	Caine
Allentown EDC	R. Scott	Unger
B. Braun Medical Inc.	Vincent	Beller
Bradley Pulverizer Enterprises	Felipe	Arango
C.F. Martin & Company	Steve	Hess
Da Vinci Science Center	Julie	Ambrose
Da Vinci Science Center	Abby	Wertman
Dynalene	Jennifer	Pearage
Freshpet Kitchens	Mindy	Deeds
German American Chamber of Commerce	Matthew	Allen
Heidelberg Materials	Matteo	Rozzanigo
Heidelberg Materials	Thomas	Kolbe
JB Hunt	Sean	Sutherland
Lehigh Carbon Community College	Brandon	Dopira
Lehigh Career and Technical Institute	Dr. Dipal	Kapadia
Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation	Trisha	Nardone
Lehigh Valley Planning Commission / WBLV	Minsoo	Park
Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority	Christopher	Heckman
LINC	Katelyn	Mack
Manufacturers Resource Center	Juan	Morales
Manufacturers Resource Center	Amber	Morris
MosAL Consulting LLC	Dr. Andrea	Grannum-Mosley
Northampton Community College	Shelly	Mule
Northampton Community College	Dr. Shawn	Thomas
PA CareerLink	Heidi	Sulderits
PA CareerLink® Lehigh Valley	Susan	Griffith
PA CareerLink® Lehigh Valley	Lucy	Pearl
Penn College of Technology	Angelo	Fattore
Polymer Contours	Tyson	Daniels
Sharp Packaging Services	Kristine	Chimics
Sharp Packaging Services	Brad	Kreibel
Warren Controls, Inc.	Taylor	Castagna
Warren Controls, Inc.	Luis	Roehrmann
Workforce Board Lehigh Valley	Sarah	Lutz
Workforce Board Lehigh Valley	Nanse	Wolfington

Location:

Heidelberg Materials

7450 Tilghman Street, Suite 124
Allentown, PA 18106

Summary:

1. Welcome & Introductions

Sarah Lutz, Assistant Executive Director of the Workforce Board Lehigh Valley (WBLV), welcomed attendees to the eighth Industry Partnership meeting, thanking the meeting hosts from Heidelberg Materials for hosting the meeting.

Matteo Rozzanigo, Heidelberg Material's Northeast Regional President, then gave an introduction, thanking everyone for coming and joining this important initiative.

2. Announcements & Partner Updates

Updated Industry Partnership Timeline

Sarah Lutz shared an update regarding the extension of the Industry Partnership grant. She shared a timeline from May through the new grant end on 12/31/2026.

The results of the Train the Trainer program on May 12 through 14 were presented. 10 participants joined from 4 partner companies. They developed skills in communication, mentorship, and practical training application.

The next Train the Trainer seminar funded by the Industry Partnership grant is currently planned for August. Company representatives interested in joining should contact Sarah Lutz at lutzs@workforcelv.org.

The next milestone for the Partnership is the new Industry Partnership Survey, which is available via the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/p0daH3VxDb>.

Submissions are due by **May 29, 2026**. The survey will collect:

- Updated funding requests
- Partnership priorities/areas of focus
- Website links (these will be featured on our IP website)
- Interest in interviews/site tours for videography purposes
- 1:1 meeting dates in June

- Training Providers Only: preferred group meeting dates to discuss training/education fair

Funding for industry-recognized credentials and professional development were also highlighted. To qualify for reimbursement, **all training and certification exams must be completed by December 31, 2026.**

To request funding, please email Sarah (lutzs@workforcelv.org) with the following information:

- **Name of the certification or credential**
- **Education provider** offering the course and/or exam
- **Dates** of training and/or exam(s)
- **Detailed cost breakdown**
- **Number of employees participating***

Additional upcoming elements of the Partnership include:

- Website for the Industry Partnership currently under development.
 - o Please send your Jobs/Training, Company photos & videos, and any suggestions to Sarah Lutz at lutzs@workforcelv.org.
- 1-on-1 meetings with industry partners in June to discuss specific needs and opportunities to utilize the grant.
- Preparation of a marketing video for the Partnership in July.
- An “Industry Partnership Training & Education Fair” open only to participants in the partnership, which is tentatively planned for August 2026.
- Strategizing and implementing a Sustainability Plan by the end of the grant period in December 2026.

Community Announcements

Participants in the meeting shared the following updates:

1. LCTI is starting a new biotech program for high school students. As part of the development process, they need input from local industry, confirming the need for the skills and competencies. The first virtual meeting for the development will be held on May 28th. Anyone who would like to contribute or participate should contact Dr. Dipal Kapadia at kapadiad@lcti.org.

2. Dr. Andrea Grannum-Mosley expressed appreciation for everyone who was able to join the 3rd Annual Lehigh Valley High School Seniors Only Job Fair on Tuesday, April 28th, 2026 at ArtsQuest.
3. LINC is hosting a Young Professionals Trivia Night at Seven Sirens Brewing Company on July 7th. Companies interested in coordinating or supporting the event should contact Katelyn Mack at kmack@linc-lv.com.
4. PA CareerLink has funding available offset onboarding costs for new hires. For more information, contact Lucy Pearl at Lpearl@careerlinklv.org.
5. LCCC has on-site training options available for companies. Their mobile lab is available for student groups of at least 12. For smaller groups of at least 4, they now offer mobile instructors as well. For more information, contact Brandon Dopira at bdopira1@lccc.edu.
6. The Da Vinci Science Center is planning their Career Connection Days program for middle schoolers and 9th graders. The program will take place over 6 to 8 days throughout the school year and include introductions to employers. Companies that would be interested in getting involved should contact Abby Wertman at abby.wertman@davincisciencecenter.org.

Presentation: Heidelberg Materials

Thomas Kolbe, Heidelberg Material's Senior Vice President of the Competence Center Cement NAM, shared a presentation regarding the company and their work in the Lehigh Valley, including sustainability and Apprenticeship programs implemented across Pennsylvania in partnership with iTEC Lehigh Valley.

3. Discussion: Planning Ahead – Future of the MCS Industry Partnership

The following questions were posed to the group:

- Do you think this group would benefit from developing a formal strategic plan?
- What are the **top 3 priorities** you'd like this partnership to focus on over the next year?
- What would success look like for this partnership in 12–18 months?

Responses included:

- **Strategic Plan**
 - General support of developing a plan.
- **Top Priorities**
 - Mental Health
 - Safety & Security (especially online and AI)
 - Attracting talent and Career Awareness
 - Succession planning & mentorship
 - Better utilization/awareness of credentialing
 - Automation/AI
 - Foundational skills, critical thinking & Interpersonal skills
 - Funding Opportunities
 - Barrier remediation
- **Success**
 - Continuing to meet after 12 months
 - Defining pathways for career building
 - Clear marketing of career pathways
 - Clear resource roadmap for skills development
 - Analysis of skills gap over the next 10 years

The discussion continued with the question of what the Partnership should **Start, Stop, or Continue.**

- **Start**
 - Invite new hires to share experience (especially including panel discussions with prepared questions)
 - Ask employees why they haven't pursued higher education
 - Build veteran talent pipeline
 - Tangible access to communicate with Industry Partnership members
 - Potentially using a networking platform like Alignable.
- **Stop**
 - Focusing primarily on youth (include focus on older and dislocated workers)
- **Continue**
 - Engaging more manufacturers and supply chain companies
 - Communication
 - Company tours

4. Closing

Sarah Lutz announced that the next meeting would take place at in July with a date and location to be announced. The discussion was adjourned at 3:30PM.

Next Meeting:

DATE: July 2026

LOCATION:

TBD