

## Lehigh Valley Manufacturing & Supply Chain Industry Partnership - Meeting Minutes

Meeting 2 | Monday, October 27, 2025 | 2:00PM-4:00PM

### Participants:

Company	Name	
Amrize Building Materials	Lorraine	Faccenda
B. Braun Medical Inc.	Morten	Rasmussen
B. Braun Medical Inc.	Vincent	Beller
Bethlehem Area Vocational Technical School	Adam	Lazarchak
Bracalente Manufacturing Group	Michelle	Laughlin
Bracalente Manufacturing Group	Brenda	Diehl
Century Promise	Yusuf	Dahl
Da Vinci Science Center	Trey	Yogeshwar
Freshpet Kitchens	Mindy	Deeds
Gemini (KB Systems)	Portia	Watkins
German American Chamber of Commerce	Matthew	Allen
Heidelberg Materials	Jon	Ehrlich
JULABO USA, Inc.	Kristi	Lane
Lehigh Carbon Community College	Kelly	Trahan
Lehigh Carbon Community College	Mike	Brody
Lehigh Carbon Community College	Don	Worman
Lehigh Career and Technical Institute	Dr. Dipal	Kapadia
Lehigh Career and Technical Institute	Regina	Naradko
Lehigh University	Lisa	Moughan
Lehigh University	Ally	Tetreault
Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation	Trisha	Nardone
Lehigh Valley Planning Commission / WBLV	Minsoo	Park
Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority	Christopher	Heckman
Manufacturer's Resource Center	Diane	Lewis
Moravian University	Christina	Crawford
NFI Industries	Sarah	Hessinger
Northampton Community College	Ken	Nasatka
Northampton Community College	Michele	Salkin
Northampton Community College	Shelly	Mule
PA CareerLink® Lehigh Valley	Ryan	Knepp
Penn College of Technology	Angelo	Fattore
Penn State Lehigh Valley	Jamie	Merida
Penn State Lehigh Valley	Mark	Capofari
Sharp Packaging Services	Brad	Kreibel
Third Street Alliance	Evette	Quinones
Workforce Board Lehigh Valley	Sarah	Lutz

**Location:**

B.Braun Medical, Inc.  
901 Marcon Blvd  
Allentown, PA

**Industry Partnership Meeting:** 2:00PM – 3:15PM

**Tour of B.Braun (optional):** 3:15PM – 4:00PM

**Summary:**

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

**Sarah Lutz**, Assistant Executive Director of the Workforce Board Lehigh Valley, welcomed attendees to the second Industry Partnership meeting, thanking the meeting hosts from B.Braun for accommodating the program and offering the optional tour following the discussion. Participants began by introducing themselves to welcome new representatives, who were not present at the first meeting.

**2. Summary of 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting (September 29, 2025)**

**Sarah Lutz** reviewed the discussion points from the first meeting, including:

1. The Purpose of the Industry Partnership
2. Discussion of the Lehigh Valley Manufacturing and Supply Chain IP's Goals
3. Guest presentations from Minsoo Park, Economist for WBLV and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and Mortent Rasmussen, Chair iTEC Lehigh Valley; Corporate Vice President, Human Resources for Operations, Logistics and Quality, B.Braun Medical, Inc.
4. Key Takeaways of Group Discussion

**3. Survey Results / Grant Funding Guidelines**

**Sarah Lutz** summarized the submissions to the Industry Partnership Survey that had been shared in advance of the meeting. The 14 respondents shared a range of workforce challenges, including: Finding talent, shift-related issues, hourly workforce and unskilled labor issues, attraction, retention, financing of training and equipment, instructor vacancies, work visas, and youth engagement. Topics that were highlighted as valuable for discussion in future Industry Partnership Meetings

included: Training, Apprenticeship / Pre-Apprenticeship, Career Pathway Development, Hiring, Retention, Artificial Intelligence, Succession Planning, and Robotics.

**Additional funding related to the Industry Partnership is available to support workforce challenges that participants identify. In order to be eligible for funding, participating companies must:**

- 1. Complete the Survey by October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025**
- 2. Attend at least one Industry Partnership Meeting between September and November 2025.**

A timeline of the grant funding opportunity was presented, noting that follow-up calls will be scheduled in November with organizations that responded “yes” to funding interest on the survey. WBLV will update the grant narrative in December to reflect the selected projects and submit to the state for approval. Based on state approval, WBLV will provide instructions to award recipients in January 2026. Qualifying expenses will be reimbursed to recipients based on monthly invoices beginning in February 2026. All expenses must be incurred by June 30, 2026.

**You can access the survey using the following link:**

<https://forms.microsoft.com/r/0aQGyXUjgm>

#### **4. Group Discussion – Talent Pipeline & Attraction**

Participants broke out into small groups to discuss talent pipeline and attraction topics. They shared their results with the larger group. Discussion topics and findings were:

- **What are your current marketing / recruitment tactics?**
  - o Companies reported a variety of recruitment strategies such as:
    - Incentives for current employees to provide referrals
    - Posting jobs in online talent networks such as Indeed and Handshake.
    - Coordinating with educators such as school districts, CTEs, high education
    - Apprenticeship and Pre-Apprenticeship
    - Internship and Job shadowing

- Sarah Lutz emphasized that PA CareerLink® is another important resource employers should take advantage of to post their open positions.
  
- **Are there untapped talent pools you'd like to engage more?**
  - Companies reported efforts to engage talent from various sources, including:
    - Retirees interested in staying engaged or working part-time
    - Veterans
    - Youth
  - Companies reported mixed experiences with the reentry community, with some reporting interest or willingness to work with applicants with criminal backgrounds and others noting that it depends on the level of the offense or work experience since reentry.

## 5. Closing / Optional Tour

Sarah Lutz reviewed the 2025-2026 Industry Partnership meeting schedule, upcoming events, and shared information on the “What’s So Cool About Manufacturing” program from the Manufacturers Resource Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15PM and followed by a tour of B.Braun Medical, Inc.

### **Next Meeting:**

**DATE:** Monday, November 24, 2025

**TIME:** 2:00PM – 3:15PM

*Optional Tour: 3:15PM – 4:00PM*

**LOCATION:** TBD