

Lehigh Valley Manufacturing & Supply Chain Industry Partnership - Meeting Minutes

Meeting 3 | Monday, November 24, 2025 | 2:00PM-4:00PM

Participants:

Organization	First Name	Last Name
C.F. Martin & Company	Steve	Hess
Da Vinci Science Center	Abby	Wertman
Da Vinci Science Center	Trey	Yogeshwar
Fanatics	Rebecca	Franklin
Gemini (KB Systems)	Portia	Watkins
GeorgFischer	Kyle	Mohen
German American Chamber of Commerce	Matthew	Allen
German American Chamber of Commerce	Kevin	Hughes Jr
Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce	Alison	Pickel
JULABO USA, Inc.	Kristi	Lane
Ledvance	Nancy	Williams
Lehigh Carbon Community College	Mike	Brody
Lehigh Carbon Community College	Don	Worman
Lehigh Career and Technical Institute	Regina	Naradko
Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation	Trisha	Nardone
Lehigh Valley Planning Commission / WBLV	Minsoo	Park
Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority	Christopher	Heckman
LINC	Elisa	Tukeva
Lutron Electronics Company	Ken	Borger
Manufacturer's Resource Center	Diane	Lewis
Northampton Community College	Shelly	Mule
Northampton Community College	Michele	Salkin
Northampton Community College	Dr. Shawn	Thomas
Penn College of Technology	Angelo	Fattore
Sharp Packaging Services	Kristine	Chimics
Sharp Packaging Services	Brad	Kreibel
SkillsUSA	Andrew	Hammer
Workforce Board Lehigh Valley	Sarah	Lutz
Workforce Board Lehigh Valley	Cathy	Rychalsky

Location:

Sharp Packaging
7451 Keebler Way
Allentown, PA 18106

Summary:

1. Welcome & Introductions

Sarah Lutz, Assistant Executive Director of the Workforce Board Lehigh Valley (WBLV), welcomed attendees to the third Industry Partnership meeting, thanking the meeting hosts from Sharp Packaging for accommodating the program and offering the optional tour following the discussion. Participants began by introducing themselves and welcoming new members to the Partnership.

2. Summary of 2nd Meeting

Sarah Lutz reviewed the discussion points from the previous meeting, including:

1. Industry Partnership Survey Results & Funding Guidelines
2. Talent Pipeline and Recruitment
3. Timeline for Industry Partnership and Grant Funding through June 30, 2026

3. Presentation: Elevate Your Workforce with SkillUp™PA

Sarah Lutz introduced Cathy Rychalsky as the new Executive Director of the WBLV.

Cathy Rychalsky introduced the SkillUp™PA platform. SkillUp™PA is a free online platform offered to all PA residents through the PA Department of Labor and Industry. It provides access to over 7,000 training modules, which can lead to over 130 industry recognized credentials. These include healthcare, manufacturing and information technology among others. There are benefits to both employees and businesses to improve skills, assess interest and potential, and prepare for advancement opportunities. While certification testing costs are not covered by SkillUp™PA, they can be supported by Industry Partnership funding if the participating companies are interested.

More information about the platform is available online at <https://www.pacareerlink.pa.gov/jponline/SkillUpPA>.

4. Training Strategies

Sarah Lutz mentioned that the training strategies conversation will be saved for the January Partnership to allow more time for Partner updates and the tour of Sharp Packaging.

5. Reminders / Upcoming Events

- Allentown School District is hosting a “Tools of the Trade” classroom speaker series for elementary school students. They are seeking professional speakers, who would be available to present for interactive 30-45 minute sessions. To join, use the following link: <https://forms.gle/p22uBCedxgM1DRLb9>
- Da Vinci Science Center is hosting:
 - o Women in Science & Engineering (WISE) Career Connection Days
 - December 18th and 19th, 2025
 - o STEAM Career Pathways Program
 - Partners needed for spring 2026
 - Contact Abby Wertman, Program Manager, at Abby.wertman!@davincisciencecenter.org
- Northampton Community College is hosting their Career Pathways to Manufacturing program. They are looking for organizations to host company tours for participating students.
 - o Contact Michele Salkin at msalkin@northampton.edu
- SkillsUSA is hosting their Championship event on February 4, 2026 from 10am to 3pm for CTE students. They are seeking skilled professionals as judges for the competition.
 - o Contact Andy Hammer at andy@skillsusacouncil.org

6. Closing / Optional Tour

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00PM and followed by a tour of Sharp Packaging.

Next Meeting:

DATE: Monday, January 26, 2025

TIME: 2:00PM – 3:15PM

Optional Tour: 3:15PM – 4:00PM

LOCATION:

Bracalente Manufacturing

20 W Creamery Rd

Trumbauersville, PA 18970