Members present:

Wayne Bell, SBA  
Ed Berger, Hutchinson Community College **  
Bill Bolin, South Central Kansas Economic Development District  
Royce Bowden, WSU, CoE  
Patty Bradley, WSU, CEDBR  
Patricia Brasted, WTC**  
Tim Chase, GWEDC  
Chris Chronis, Sedgwick County  
Barbara Davis, Society of Women Engineers  
Mike Edwards, WATC  
Kerri Falletti, CFCC Economic Development  
Mickey Fornaro-Dean, Harvey County Economic Development  
Debra Franklin, WSU  
Sherry Gegen, WSU  
Kristen Gibbs, WSU  
Lou Heldman, WSU  
Janis Hellard, Sumner County Economic Development Commission  
Steve Kelly, Kansas Department of Commerce **  
Patty Koehler, JR Custom Metal Products Inc  
Keith Lawing, Workforce Alliance of South Central KS  
Paul Masson, StarNet, LLC  
Keith Meyers, KDOC **  
Heather Morgan, Project 17 **  
Karyn Page, Kansas Global Trade Services  
Greg Panichello, Kansas Small Business Development Center  
Deb Scheibler, Kansas WorkforceONE**  
Sue Schapp, Kansas Department of Commerce  
Gabe Schlickau, Black Hills Energy  
Bill Smith, Spirit AeroSystems  
John Tomblin, WSU, RTT and NIAR  
Ron Weddle, Aerospace Systems and Components  
James Wolff, WSU, CFE  
Paul Wooley, CIBOR, Via Christi  
** via phone

8:00 am – Arrival and Coffee Reception

8:15 am – Welcome and Introductions

John Tomblin opened the meeting with facilitator introduction of task force members and the facilitator, Paul Masson.

Agenda and Meeting Guidelines

John Tomblin gave a brief explanation of the IMCP program and the Phase I awarded proposal, including the ideas of community interest and the necessity of member involvement for the initiative’s success. Paul Masson further introduced himself and provided a summary of the meeting’s agenda.

Opening: Objectives & Outcomes

Debbie Franklin reviewed the program’s objectives.

1. Familiarization with IMCP structure and opportunities
2. Agreement to support the WSU coordinated initiative
3. Collaboratively provide information and inputs that will improve facilitation of innovation, development, production, and sale of products as well as corresponding workforce quality
4. Identification and prioritization of key manufacturing strategic investment(s)

IMCP Opportunity and Background

- Regional Coordination/Leadership
  Franklin reviewed the WSU Strategic Plan highlighting the mission statement which states that the University will be an “economic driver for Kansas and the greater public good” and that WSU will “accelerate the discovery, creation and transfer of new knowledge.” This is consistent with the increased national emphasis of universities engaging in technology-based economic development and assisting local firms to adapt to changing markets and technologies by continually introducing commercially viable products, services and production process.

- Positioning of Southern Kansas
  Franklin reviewed manufacturing concentration data and identified manufacturing sectors where Wichita has concentration levels that exceed twice the national average. According to the Brookings report of the largest 100 MSAs, the Wichita MSA is the highest ranking clusters in terms of national manufacturing employment, specifically in aerospace vehicles and defense, heavy machinery and oil & gas manufacturing with a concentration rate twice the national average. The Wichita MSA is ranked third in the country for very high-tech manufacturing – industries which have a high percentage of science and engineering workers. Task force members extended the discussion to include analysis of what the concentration mean on a global scale. Members acknowledged the regional comparative advantage is in the advanced manufacturing industries. It will be essential for the proposal to include a discussion on the regional excess capacity for post-recession workforce as well as infrastructure.
• **Preparing a Strategy**
Franklin shared strategy preparation with the group, including creating a long-term plan with strategic investments to accelerate manufacturing, stakeholder collaboration, support for experiential learning and emphasizing long-term engagement from industry.

• **Preparing a Proposal**
Over a period of three task force meetings, stakeholders, assisted by an independent facilitator, will provide input into six integrated topics important for a strong manufacturing ecosystem. These include:
  - Workforce and Training
  - Supply Chain
  - Research and Innovation
  - Infrastructure/Site Development
  - Trade and International Investment
  - Operational Improvement and Capital Access
Two additional assessments have been commissioned to support the proposal – a) develop a strategic export plan and b) development of an entrepreneurship plan.

The proposal is due on March 14, 2014, and will be informed by the stakeholder inspired strategies that will best strengthen and support advanced manufacturing.

**Engaging Stakeholders: Who?**
After a short break, Paul Masson facilitated the second half of the meeting. The composition of the task force membership was discussed.

**Creating Strategy: How?**
The task force members, as stakeholders, will provide the capability to coordinate new investment for advanced manufacturing. The stakeholders, using “group wisdom,” will provide input into development and prioritization of strategies and new investments in order to strengthen the region’s advanced manufacturing industry.

**Strategy Process: What’s Next?**
  - Prioritize needs & opportunities
  - Gather Info
  - Make Decisions
  - Make Conditional Commitments

**Core Topic: Supplier Networks**
Facilitated group discussion identified the gaps within the regional supplier networks and began to prioritize initiatives that will lead to a more cost effective, streamlined supply chain resulting in a more competitive manufacturing ecosystem. It was suggested that better integrated capabilities and processes or technologies would be beneficial to higher business functionality. The importance of materials knowledge and preparation – their transport and location, supply chain capability and workforce skills transferability were also discussed.

**Core Topic: Workforce Development**
Masson facilitated a discussion on the importance of workforce development in order to create a sustainable manufacturing strategy. Discussion involved industry recognized certifications / education, employee skill sets and the employer buy-in into these certifications, market intelligence, early exposure and outreach programs to develop interest, and introduction of new employees into the industry for a sustained workforce.

**Next Steps**
Masson addressed action item questions, marking them for further discussion at the 2/6 or 2/27 meetings. Time was given for any further questions or clarification.

**11:35 am – Adjourned – Thank you**
Debbie Franklin adjourned the meeting and thanked the group for attending.

Additional Task Force Meeting: Thursday, February 6 and Thursday, February 27