



Mountain Desert Economic Partnership
Regional Education and Economic Development

Team 3 Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2020

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

In Attendance:	
Matt Wells, MDCP JPA	Carrie O'Neal, MDCP JPA
Kendle Crowell, MDCP JPA	Susan Drake, SB County Supervisor's Office
Andy Page, MDCP JPA	Hamid Eydgahi, Victor Valley College
Ryan Holman, Snowline JUSD	Jessica Swift, MDCP JPA
Jeff Dunagan, General Atomics	Carol Tsushima, SBCSS Alliance for Education

Next Steps/Tasks:	
1. Launch the webchat series and see what works and what needs to be tweaked.	Carrie/Jessica/Jeff
2. Market these projects as much as possible to scale up these efforts and show more partners the value in participating. This will be done through social media, taking a "roadshow" about MDEP and its successes to Chambers, Rotary Clubs, etc. and finding other platforms to share on.	Matt/MDCP Staff/Jeff
3. Discuss details w/ Carol about participating at their Stemapalooza virtual conference in February.	Matt/Carol
4. Discuss ways to measure the impact we're having on students who participate in WBL opportunities. (e.g. does a student who participates in a micro internship go on to enroll in a Mechatronics related cert program at VVC?)	MDCP Staff
5. Seek guidance from OFCV to see how they collected employer data in confidential areas.	Matt

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m.

2. Recap of All Team's Work Since July Meeting

Team 1: Innovation, Incubation, Entrepreneurship

- Virtual Innovation Dialogues taking place every couple months, with subgroups emerging from those.
- Focus group around distance learning being formed.
- Continuing to build the ecosystem to start a virtual startup lab.

Team 2: Four Year University

- Value Proposition is almost ready to print/publish. The team is seeking more logos from local business partners to add, but that should be completed in the next couple of weeks.
- A meeting between the Co-chairs, Matt, and Assemblyman Jay Obernolte will take place to share with him the work taking place, get his feedback on the presentation, and use his connections with Cal Poly to introduce the team to their leadership and start discussing the possibility of a partnership between their college and our local CC education system.

Team 4: Essential Skills

- Essential Skills Guide continues to be distributed. We need to survey our partners to see who has seen it, who needs to see it and who is using it.
- We need to have a direct "ask" for each kind of partner we want to embed the skills.
- The team's next steps will be to find curricular solutions that are effective for teaching students the Essential Skills in existing curriculum.
- A subcommittee will be tasked with building a repository of best practices and to make recommendations to other partners based on those findings.

3. Stakeholder Spotlight of the Month

We want to get to know our teammates better and understand how our industry partners can fill in the gaps in the work MDEP is committed to. Matt will work with Jeff and Ryan to select a partner who will share about their company/business and what they do at next month's meeting.

4. Review Tactical Plans, Guiding Principles and Organizational Structure

Matt reviewed the Long Term MDEP Outcomes:

Learn. Work. Stay. Play

Action Oriented Ecosystem

Adaptive, future ready students. Times have changed dramatically recently, and our students need to be adaptive in order to succeed and in order for our region to thrive.

A Hub for Innovators and Entrepreneurs.

Specific to Team 3, here is the Team Vision and Strategy:

TEAM VISION

The High Desert has a thriving economy with diverse opportunities that cultivate and retain a skilled workforce in a community providing safety, entertainment, diverse career opportunities and a high quality of life.

TEAM STRATEGY

Understand what industries are existing and emerging, and align education and career pathways so the High Desert has a locally trained and talented workforce. “Get our students into your jobs!”

5. Golden Bell Award

Ryan shared about the Golden Bell award, which is a statewide recognition sponsored by the CA School Board Association. Ryan suggested to Matt to apply for the award on behalf of MDEP and Ryan just learned that MDEP is a finalist to receive the award. One school district had to be linked to the application, so Snowline was chosen as that district, but everyone will get recognition if the award is received. Ryan commented that it is a highly respected award in the school district community and the recognition speaks to the great work being done in our MDEP community.

6. Team 3: Tiered Economic Opportunity

a. Mechatronics Pathway Progress

1. Matt shared the Mechatronics/Aviation Infographics again and asked for the team to review and let Andy know if anything crucial is missing.
 - Add some of our Manufacturing partners like Mitsubishi Cement, Cal Portland, etc.
2. Jeff shared that Algebra for Technology was approved at Chaparral HS, which is a year long applied math program focused around Mechatronics. Jeff and Antone from GA helped Chad Brooks to develop it. It is applied mathematics towards what would be involved in becoming a Mechatronics technician. This is a win that shows we are off in the right direction.
3. Pathway Roadmap
 - Jeff received feedback to include CC information and contact information on the document. Jeff suggested building a separate pathway map, either on the back of the existing one or separately, showing the post secondary path to a Mechatronics related degree.
 - Matt suggested adding a QR code to the poster where students, parents, etc. can be led to our website to learn more about the post secondary options and include hyperlinks to CC pages for more information that remains up to date.
 - Hamid suggested connecting the QR code to a digital version of the flyer which would include hyperlinks to courses at VVC or BCC that connect to those career paths, courses that are articulated, etc.
 - The group agreed to add the QR code, have a digital landing page linked, and to include both CC logos on the existing poster.
 - Correction to Airframe & Powerplant Mechanic.
4. Mechatronics Video Project
 - Carrie and Jessica, along with the film crew from Kranbox, recorded footage at Liberty Utilities as the first part of the Mechatronics video focused around explaining Mechatronics and the kinds of local Mechatronics career opportunities available.
 - The video will also serve as an introduction for the webchat series.
5. Industry Experts/Schedule for Webchat Series
 - Hoping for a series of 5 partners to host chats to start.
 - Five dates from Sep-Nov being presented and partners can register to fill the slots
 - With distance learning being the norm in all districts now, and every district on different schedules across the region, we don't know when the best time will be for these webchats so we are going to just start and see how they go. They will be recorded so if students can't participate at a certain time, they can watch the recording later.

- Susan recommended we contact Pete Morse from Plastipak as an option to fill a web chat slot.
- Jessica also suggested Carol Thomas-Keefer from Liberty Utilities to bring a female perspective to the chats.
- Carrie shared about a woman from Rio Tinto who is the very first first-class female millwright at the plant. She started as a janitor, did a four year apprenticeship at the company and moved her way up. Carrie is writing a blog feature about her, but it will be another way to engage female students. Hopefully she can also do a web chat in the future.
- Matt reminded the team to add any suggestions/names/contacts to the shared document for Carrie/Jessica to contact for this series and other projects.

6. Interview Prompts

- We want every web chat to cover different topics, so questions were collected from the MDEP team and the list can still be added to.
- Teachers have also been surveyed to see what topics they want to see covered in the series.
- Once speakers are plugged in, the teachers can be notified and do some pre work with students to develop questions for the partner ahead of time, depending on their interests.

7. Virtual Presentation Guide/Checklist

- Jessica took suggestions from the shared doc and created a formalized version that will be given to presenters prior to their web chat dates.

b. Virtual Micro Internship Program Collaboration

- Another avenue to try out with Mechatronics and other industry sectors.
- Still looking for ways to build WBL opportunities in this virtual learning environment. Since time is precious in the distance learning schedule, why not have a short, engaging opportunity to connect students with industry?
- 90 minute time when a small cohort of students will connect with industry rep and discuss a problem/challenge that students can work on and bring back for feedback. This could be expanded to a series of 90 minutes sessions with the same cohorts of students, so it is not one size fits all - it really depends on what works and what the industry partner is open to.
- This will be a partnership with Alliance, MDCP/MDEP, and One Future Coachella Valley to help build best practices that can be put into a guide and shared with districts in regions all over the state. This could be a potential model in how to connect students and businesses in a virtual world where time and resources are limited.
- The students will have to be evaluated and go through a screening process to get into a cohort.
- Jeff was excited about the opportunity, especially because GA has many challenges having students on site at their facility. This will allow them to still get in front of a group of kids and they can screen the students to ensure both parties will get what they need out of it. They have requested four 90 minute sessions, with a focus on Mechatronics. After each session, an assignment will be given and students will need to present on the results of the assignment at the next session. Students should have a clear understanding of what steps they need to take for a pathway to Mechatronics careers.
- Carol shared that another industry partner wants to have a series of sessions around essential skills.
- If this approach works, and districts want to manipulate their systems and allow this as an opportunity for students to issue credits for these internship hours, they could do so.

c. Next Steps

- 1) Launch the webchat series and see what works and what needs to be tweaked.
- 2) Market these projects as much as possible to scale up these efforts and so more and more partners see the value in participating. This will be done through social media, taking a

“roadshow” about MDEP and its successes to Chambers, Rotary Clubs, etc. and finding other platforms to share on.

- 3) Discuss details w/ Carol about participating at their Stemapalooza virtual conference in February. There will be a presenting opportunity to promote Mechatronics during their manufacturing segment.
- 4) Find a way to measure the impact we’re having on students who participate in WBL opportunities. For example, does a student who participates in a micro internship go on to enroll in a Mechatronics related cert program at VVC?
- 5) How do we start data collection practices on the industry side? Are there other methods to track employer data and is that even feasible? Can we seek guidance from OFCV to see how they collected data in confidential areas? If we can build the culture of local industry understanding *why* it benefits them and the community from employing locally, that will be a powerful start. Leads to a marketing campaign that identifies employers as having 50% or more of their staff who is local. They could get a sticker, plaque, etc. and used to promote this initiative to other industry that
- 6) Discussion on when the next pathway development will start. Matt would like to decide sooner than later what that pathway will be. We can take what we are doing in Behavioral Health with the virtual symposium, along with all the different virtual work taking shape in Mechatronics, the strong internship pipeline in Medical, etc. and have a really good framework to start with for the next pathway. Matt would like to look further into IT. Ryan added that we need to be prepared to answer industry partners about the procedure for building out an additional pathway before we choose what that pathway will be. Need to find champions like Jeff, in other sectors, who can lead the way in the work that needs to be done to tailor another pathway.

7. Conclave Update

Moving the conclave to the third week of October. State of the county will take place the first week of October and Supervisor Lovingood will be plugging MDEP at that event. That will be a good opportunity for us to follow up with the Conclave and get more participation and buy in.

8. Alignment USA Network Celebration - September 9, 2020

- Matt shared about what AUSA is and how our efforts align with theirs and others in the country using a similar model.
- On September 9th from 10-11:30, they will hold their celebration kickoff for the year. Matt will be giving a 4 minute presentation on MDEP. He encouraged team members to attend, if possible.
- It will be a good opportunity to learn from other teams about what they’re doing, how our work aligns, and methods we may be able to adopt for our MDEP work.

9. monday.com

a) **Completed/Outstanding Tasks**

b) **Assign New Tasks**

c) **Set Timelines**

10. Next Meeting: September 15, 2020