

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Oneida County Local Development Corporation**

Held on January 15, 2021

584 Phoenix Drive, Rome, NY/Webex Video/Teleconference Due to COVID-19 Emergency

Members Present: Webex: David Grow, Michael Fitzgerald, Mary Faith Messenger, Steve Zogby, Ferris Betrus, Kirk Hinman, Gene Quadraro.

EDGE Staff Present: Webex: Steven DiMeo, Shawna Papale, Maureen Carney, Bill Van Shufflin, Jennifer Waters, Mark Kaucher, Tim Fitzgerald.

Other Attendees: Teleconference: Linda Romano & Laura Ruberto, Bond, Schoeneck & King; Mark Levitt & Jenna Peppenelli, Levitt & Gordon; Rome Mayor Jackie Izzo; Franca Armstrong, Mohawk Valley Community College.

Chair Grow called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM.

Minutes

The minutes of the December 18, 2020 meeting were reviewed. **A motion to approve the December 18, 2020 meeting minutes, was moved by M.F. Messenger, seconded by S. Zogby, and carried 7-0.**

The Board of Trustees of Hamilton College

S. Papale explained that due to IT problems, we were not able to hold the public hearing, therefore, we have to table this agenda item and have planned a new hearing for 8:30 on Friday, January 29th, with a special LDC meeting to be held immediately following the public hearing.

Financials

M. Carney reviewed the most recent interim financial information. There was no significant information to report. She reviewed the new auditor search process. The proposals we have received to date are priced much higher than what we have paid for our audits in the past. She will continue to research potential firms. She will prepare a summary/analysis for the board's consideration. Firms that have experience with similar IDAs/LDC is highly desirable. **The Board received the interim financials as presented, subject to audit.**

MVCC Presentation

Chair Grow introduced Franca Armstrong, Associate Vice-President of Workforce Development at MVCC, who requested the opportunity to address the board regarding a proposed Mohawk Valley Tech Corps program at MVCC (see attachment to these minutes for full details). Ms. Armstrong described the proposed program and requested the participation of the Corporation by supporting the program with 5 spots in the program. **A motion to provide financial support for the Mohawk Valley Tech Corps program at MVCC in Rome, for up to 10 spots, at \$8,000 per person, restricted to Oneida County residents outside the City of Utica (which has the program funded with federal funds limited to usage only within the City of Utica), and that additional funding be sought from the Community Foundation of Oneida and Herkimer Counties, and also the Rome Foundation, was moved by M. Fitzgerald, and seconded by F. Betrus, and carried 7-0.** Ms. Armstrong thanked the Board.

At 10:37 AM a motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by M. F. Messenger, seconded by K. Hinman, and carried 7-0.

Respectfully recorded, Mark Kaucher

A photograph of an industrial robotic arm in a factory setting. The arm is orange and white, with various cables and sensors attached. It is positioned over a yellow safety cage. The background shows a large industrial facility with high ceilings and structural beams.

MVTECH CORPS

Concept Paper

*Mohawk Valley
Community College*



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Project Summary	3
Project Details	4
Budget Breakdown	5
APPENDIX: Regional Workforce Crisis	6
APPENDIX: Course Outline.....	7

PROJECT SUMMARY



Overview: Mohawk Valley Tech Corps is a new opportunity for students to earn a Mechatronics, CNC, or Welding certificate from Mohawk Valley Community College in one year – **tuition free!** Students also will receive intense, individualized personal and employment counseling. Project Counselors and Employment Counselors will work with participants throughout the program to

provide support for personal issues that can impact progress, provide service navigation to help program scholars connect with community resources, and prepare participants for employment by providing them with job search and interview techniques while also building skills that support retention.

Students who complete the program will earn the associated Certificate from the College and also **will be guaranteed a job interview with Briggs and Stratton as well as Cree Wolfspeed.** The College is currently in talks with other local companies specifically in the City of Rome to expand this network of partners.



This MV Tech Corps pilot project was developed as a sister project to MVCC's Job Corps Scholars Program, which was recently funded through a grant by the United States Department of Labor. The USDOL grant-funded Job Corps project is strictly limited to Utica-based participants. To extend the outstanding benefits of the Job Corps project to the rest of the community, MVCC has developed MV Tech Corps specifically for students residing **outside** the Utica area.

PROJECT DETAILS

Project plans are as follows:

- **Funding Model:** The project provides access to technical programs that can be completed in one year, **free of charge for tuition, fees and books**. Students will not be required to apply for FAFSA government aid programs; this expedites the timeline and ensures access for students unable to complete the aid process.
- **Recruitment:** The College will recruit from across Oneida County, focusing awareness efforts most heavily in Rome. To ensure funding is maximized, students from the Utica area will be referred to the sister project Job Corps, which is federally funded. This will ensure that MV Tech Corps funding will be reserved for students who reside in a locality not eligible for the federal requirements.
- **Eligibility:** Students must be ages 17 to 24; must be a current resident of Oneida County; and must be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or citizen of a U.S. territory.
- **Support Services:** In addition to providing free access to technical education in high-demand career fields, the project provides students with personal counseling; nonacademic supports through a food & necessities pantry; career development and job search assistance; connection to employers; and more.
- **Future Growth:** The College will seek to develop additional partnerships across the community that enable 1) more students to participate in the program, and 2) additional technical programs to be included as eligible majors. Other technical programs anticipated to be added in the future include HVAC and potentially Carpentry / Masonry.

Timeline:

The project timeline is as follows:

– Student enrollment	January 2021
– Classes Begin	February 2021
– Classes Conclude, Certificates Awarded	December 2021
– Students Begin to Enter Employment	December 2021

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Projected Expenses:

Please note these are **estimated** costs and final totals may be adjusted as needed.

ITEM	COST
Student Tuition & Fees (\$8000 x 5)	\$40,000
Student Support, Counseling, Advisement	\$12,500
Career Counseling & Job Search Preparation	\$5,500
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>\$58,000</u>

Projected Income:

Please note these are **estimated** income levels and final totals may be adjusted as needed.

ITEM	COST
*Student Support, Counseling, Advisement	\$12,500
*Career Counseling & Job Search Preparation	\$5,500
GAP AMOUNT:	\$40,000
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>\$58,000</u>

**Asterisked items are completely covered by Mohawk Valley Community College.*

APPENDIX: REGIONAL WORKFORCE CRISIS

The Mohawk Valley region is uniquely positioned to lead the science and technology economy in New York State. The region has a strong support system, natural resources, & infrastructure to support STEM industries – but a major need is workforce preparation. Locally, science and technology job opportunities are expanding at unprecedented levels:

- Production occupations in the Mohawk Valley region are projected to see **380 job openings annually** through 2024
- Installation, Maintenance and Repair occupations are projected to see **270 annual openings** (with an entry-level salary more than \$6,000 higher than the region's all-occupation average) through 2024
- Architecture and Engineering occupations – which pay wages more than double the region's all-occupation average – are projected to see **70 annual openings** through 2024, a rate of growth 2.3 times the national rate.

- NYS Department of Labor

However, despite these opportunities, a major skills gap prevents local workers from entering these jobs and supporting the expansion of the regional STEM economic cluster.

- In a 2015 Workforce Development Board survey of local employers, **98% reported difficulty finding well-prepared candidates** even for entry-level jobs.
- The Mohawk Valley REDC Upstate Revitalization Initiative plan noted that an aging workforce will result in vacancy of **more than 1,800 middle-skill jobs** over the next 10 years, of which approximately 1,000 are, “blue collar positions in manufacturing, construction and STEM Intensive Industries...”

“A major dilemma facing the Mohawk Valley is to bridge the divide between employers who have jobs but cannot find qualified people and residents who cannot find jobs... individuals lack skills that will allow them to transition into better paying jobs that require some level of STEM skills.”

*- Mohawk Valley Advanced Manufacturing Development Plan
(NYSDOL, NEATEC, HMO WDB)*

APPENDIX: COURSE OUTLINE

MECHATRONICS: This program prepares graduates for entry-level positions that involve the operation and maintenance of electro-mechanical systems commonly found in automated manufacturing environments. Students will be prepared to work in the operations, installation, and maintenance of automated and robotically controlled systems. Systems-level analysis, assembly, and troubleshooting techniques are stressed with hands-on laboratory experiences to complements classroom-based instruction.

First Semester

ET105 Computer Control Fundamentals	Credits: 2.0
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ET127 Modern Industrial Practice	Credits: 3.0
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MA105 Technical Mathematics 1	Credits: 4.0
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MT149 Pneumatic and Hydraulic Systems	Credits: 3.0
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ET101 Technical Electricity 1	Credits: 3.0
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Second Semester

ET102 Technical Electricity 2	Credits: 3.0
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ET104 Systems Diagrams	Credits: 3.0
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ET131 Electrical Machinery and Controls 1	Credits: 4.0
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ET251 Mechatronics Systems	Credits: 3.0
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MT139 Mechanical Systems	Credits: 4.0
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WELDING: This certificate prepares individuals for actual welding work using welding processes and techniques, while preparing for the New York State Certification Examination.

First Semester

MT170 Oxy-Acetylene Welding Procedures	Credits: 5.0
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MT174 Electric Arc Welding Procedures	Credits: 5.0
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MT270 Welding Procedures for MIG and TIG	Credits: 5.0
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MT272 Advanced Electric Arc Welding Procedures	Credits: 5.0
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Second Semester	Credits: 3.0
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MT273 Welding Certification	Credits: 5.0
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MT277 Welders Blueprint Reading and Metal Fabrication	Credits: 5.0
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Certificate Elective (a) Electives include: MT276 Welders Ornamental Iron & Blacksmithing OR MT278 Welding Inspection & Quality Control Testing.	Credits: 4.0
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CNC: This is an assessment based certificate where students are evaluated on their ability to demonstrate their knowledge and experience in all the topics of study. Topics include safety, blueprint reading, Geometric Dimensioning and Tolerancing (GD&T), machining a work piece to drawing specification, use of computer aided design software to create drawings, programming, and set-up of CNC lathes and milling machines, using G-Code and CAM, proper tooling and work-holding methods, speeds and feeds, and metal cutting theory. After students complete the minimum skills required in their assessment books, they continue their training by developing their own advanced machining projects. These projects include design, manufacturing, and evaluation of their own product ideas.

First Semester

MT291 CNC/Machinist 1	Credits: 5.0
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MT292 CNC/Machinist 2	Credits: 5.0
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MT293 CNC/Machinist 3	Credits: 5.0
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MT294 CNC/Machinist 4	Credits: 5.0
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Second Semester

MT295 Advanced CNC Turning Centers	Credits: 5.0
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MT296 CNC/Machinist 6	Credits: 5.0
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MT297 CNC/Machinist 7	Credits: 5.0
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