



Northwest Intermountain Manufacturers Association

2008 Accomplishments

Manufacturers Needs Assessment: NIMA completed an in-depth survey of over 100 manufacturers in its nine county service area. The survey results identified industry challenges and assisted NIMA in developing a realist strategy to address manufacturer needs that will lead to sustainability and growth. The project assisted in established a meaningful and effective collaborative between manufacturers, public service agencies, secondary and post-secondary educations institutions, and economic development organization to address challenges. After the survey was completed, results were disseminated through formal presentations by the NIMA Board of Directors and Executive Director to local, state, federal and Native American representatives. This project was funded through an US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration Technical Assistance Grant and an Idaho Department of Commerce GEM Grant. Each was respectively sponsored by CEDA and Idaho County. **The final report of this project is included on the enclosed computer disk.**

Workforce Development:

- **School-to-Manufacturing Initiative:** The Workforce Committee implemented a school-to-manufacturing initiative. It is an effort focused on exposing students to manufacturing to spark interest in manufacturing careers and to ultimately influence the quality and quantity of the workforce available.

To launch this initiative, NIMA hosted worksite tours and meetings with nine (9) local schools and administrators. A Solid Works training program was organized and implemented for teachers with Solid Works school programs implemented during the Fall 2008 semester. The program provides hands-on training to participating students. **NIMA secured the necessary funding to offer the SolidWorks software and training at no charge to the schools.**

- **Haas Training:** NIMA's Workforce Committee worked with King Machine to obtain Haas on-line training for incumbent workers and new employees. **NIMA was able to negotiate with King Machine to get the seats at a volume discount and worked with the Idaho Department of Labor to pay 50% of the negotiated cost directly to the manufacturer.**

NIMA implemented the following training within the pilot project:

- Welding – Using Hobart Training Material
- CNC Machine Operation – The Haas Tool Machine training program was selected for use in this environment.

International Trade, Government Contracting, and Using the Port System:

- NIMA worked with CEDA, Southeast Washington Economic Development Association, Valley Vision, the Port of Lewiston, and the Port of Whitman to host two workshops providing manufacturers with training in exporting and government contracting. Eighteen (18) manufacturing companies participated in the training.
- NIMA assisted CEDA in identifying manufacturers with an interest in expanding their markets through export and in securing USDA – RBEG grant funds to assist up to five north central Idaho manufacturers.

Technical Assistance: NIMA has personally visited with 392 manufacturers during the year and has referred them to the following agencies: CEDA, CCED, Ida-Lew Economic Development Association, SEWEDA, Idaho Department of Labor, TechHelp, TechConnect, SIRTI, Trade Adjustment Center, and LEDC. We have referred several manufacturers to Joe Harris at WSU, Karen Stevenson at the U of I. In addition to the personal visit, several hundred

Northwest Intermountain Manufacturers Association

telephone conversations and emails have been exchanged in working to meet the needs of our manufacturers.

Operations:

- **Formally Expanded the Organization's Service Area:** The service area now includes north central Idaho counties of: Nez Perce, Idaho, Lewis and Latah counties and south eastern Washington counties of: Asotin, Garfield, Columbia and Whitman.
- **Articles of Incorporation:** Filed annual report. Updated and received confirmation of approval for the organization's Articles of Incorporation;
- **Name Change:** Documented a name change from North Idaho Manufacturer's Association to Northwest Intermountain Manufacturers Association to better identify the service area for NIMA.
- **Established Working Committees:** NIMA developed the following committees:
 - **Workforce Committee** – develop a plan to deal with workforce issues particularly those identified in the survey.
 - **Insurance Committee** – look for/develop affordable medical, retirement and product liability insurance for manufacturers.
 - **Finance/Sustainability Committee** – to deal with membership dues, stakeholder contributions and other financial sustainability options.
 - **Communications Committee** – to develop a web site, list serve, newsletter & brochures.

Promotion, Economic Development & Manufacturer Representation:

- NIMA participated in a workshop spearheaded by CEDA on Economic Outlook.
- NIMA worked closely with LCSC and WWCC in developing workforce development projects.
- NIMA worked closely with LCSC on the SKILLS USA program.
- NIMA wrote eight (8) letters of support for organization that benefit the economic development in this nine county region.
- NIMA attended several Career Fair, including one at Lewis Clark State College;
- NIMA attended the City of Kamiah Community Review, Lower Granite Dam Tour, Inland Northwest Partners meetings, Wind Farm Tour, Legislative Meetings, Orofino Apprenticeship Meeting, Industrial Electrical Advisory Board, and the CEDA Board of Director Meeting,
- NIMA assisted Clarkston High School with DECA survey.
- NIMA's Executive Director regularly attended:
 - CEDA Staff Meetings – weekly
 - NIMA Board of Directors Meetings – monthly
 - NIMA Workforce Committee Meetings
 - Regional Energy Committee Meetings
 - Palouse Knowledge Corridor Meetings
 - Kickstand Meetings