

City of Lawrence Outside Agency Bi-annual Report 2016

Reports on activity should be submitted electronically to Danielle Buschkoetter, at dbuschkoetter@lawrenceks.org. Reports on activities from January 2016 to June 2016 are due on July 15th 2016. Cumulative reports on activities from January 2016 through December 2016 are due on February 15th 2017.

Agency Name:

Reporting Period (please check one):

☐ January - June
(deadline July 15)

☒ January – December
(deadline February 15)

1. Give a brief narrative of the activities that were funded with City funds over the reporting period checked above.

From January through June 2016, city funds were used for a range of activities related to our training mission. This included paying for supplies, maintenance of equipment and facility, insurance, internet and phone usage, professional services, and other operational activities. These activities supported Peaslee Tech to offer credit-based programs and courses, attain a gift from industry to build a new Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) training laboratory, and develop several new custom training courses for industry. We offered a second semester of Building My Career, a course which includes Creative Problem Solving, Conflict Resolution in the Workplace, Financial Literacy, and Career Building modules. We hosted a community job fair, industrial partner meetings, and informational tours for high school students who are interested in skills training for the 2016-2017 school year, so that they could become familiar with our facility. We also hosted a middle school career fair for 800 students. Grants and other fundraising efforts were accomplished as well. We offered two sections of custom industry training for front-line supervisors, courses on Troubleshooting AC Motors and other courses (see Goal 3 below). The executive director toured many companies and exchanged ideas for programming and support. We marketed our programs by attending many highly visible and public events such as the Downtown Sidewalk Sale, the County Fair, and the Farmer's Market. We hosted visits by the governor, the secretary of commerce, a legislator, and other local and state leaders. We began renovation on four projects in our facility. We supported community groups' needs including StopGap (training sessions) and Douglas County Health Department (executive director sat on the Advisory Board for the new Community Health Survey). All of these activities required operational support, which was provided, in part, by the City.

2. Provide specific detail (and supportive documents, if needed) to demonstrate progress made toward your goals/objectives.

Goal 1: Programming and enrollment—broaden credit programs and enrollments. During this reporting period Peaslee Tech continued the programs and courses set in the 2015-2016 academic year and added other courses. As with most higher education entities, the Fall semester determines most of the programming for spring (e.g. students enrolling in the Construction program for fall take the corresponding next group of courses slated for the spring, etc.). In Spring 2016, we built out the new Belcher Family HVAC Laboratory. This effort brought together industry (P1 Group), education (Neosho County Community

College, and Peaslee Tech), to renovate a space and hold a grand opening through the Lawrence Chamber. NCCC brought most of the training equipment to outfit the lab. This will greatly increase our capacity for HVAC hands-on training. We filled two sections of HVAC training in the Fall 2016 semester and offered one section of entry programming and two sections of advanced training in the Spring 2017 semester. We are also working with Hutchinson Community College to develop a plumbing program. No other plumbing programs, in which any citizen may enroll, are available in Kansas. We have targeted the space for building out the lab and hope to renovate space during 2017-2018 for Plumbing training. We are discussing the development of an electrical training program. The current groundwork for these initiatives will lead to new programming and enrollment if the project receives funding and/or in-kind support, similar to the Belcher HVAC Lab. Our goal of 10% growth in enrollments over Fall 2015 required at least 165 enrollments in credit and noncredit courses and we attained 302 students (this figure includes credit programs promoted by Peaslee Tech but offered at Lawrence High and the College and Career Center due to lack of developed space at Peaslee Tech and other logistics). During Fall 2016 we planned, with Flint Hills Technical College, to offer the Power Plant Technology Program in Fall 2017 which should contribute additional students, if we attain adequate enrollments to offer that program.

Goal 2: Gifts and Grants. Our goal was to increase 9% over 2015 goals for gifts and grants. The in-kind gift from the Smitty Belcher Family, to create the Belcher Family HVAC Lab, exceeded expectations in terms of building renovation. This has been the largest industry-based gift, yet, to Peaslee Tech. This resulted in an increase from 17,000 square feet to 21,000 square feet of renovated space within the facility. In 2015, our gifts and grants totaled \$76,600 cash and \$36,035 in-kind. The goal of a 9% increase would have yielded \$83,494 in cash and \$35,643 of in-kind. During 2016 gifts and grants totaled \$617,159 in cash and \$8,320 of in-kind. A major cash gift of \$475,000 from the Economic Development Corporation was a major factor in the cash contributions. Without this gift Peaslee's cash contributions would have been \$142,160, which is still considerably higher than the goal, a 186% increase.

Goal 3: Training for Industry and Workforce. Our goal was to offer at least 4-6 training sessions by Dec 31, 2016 and we surpassed that goal for non-credit, short course offerings. Peaslee Tech developed the following courses during the period of the report:

- Photonics Workshop, in conjunction with PSU, April 2016
- Automotive Basics in conjunction with NAPA, Feb 2016
- Teacher Technology in conjunction with PSU, June 2016
- School-Based Business Course in conjunction with PSU, June 2016
- Two Front Line Supervision Courses for area industrial partners held in early July 2016
- Trouble Shooting Alternating Current Motors for area industrial partners July 2016
- Electric Motor Drives and Troubleshooting Electric Motor Drives for area industrial partners held in August
- Agricultural Teachers Workshops through PSU, October 2016
- Stair and Rafter Workshop for tech teachers, through PSU, October 2016
- 11 OSHA Safety courses (500,501, 510, 511, 521, 2045, 2255, 2264, 3015, 3095, 3115) were offered but inadequate enrollments caused cancellations
- Developed and marketed two Programmable Logic Controls courses for December but moved them to January 2016 due to instructor's schedules.

3. How have you impacted the citizens of Lawrence?

Impacts have occurred in the following areas:

1. Providing training to industry to improve their workforce's capabilities.

Several industry partners are represented on our Board of Trustees including Hallmark, Big Heart Pet Brands (The JM Smucker Company), and Plastikon. We communicate with 175 companies from manufacturing, construction, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, and masonry/bricklaying to learn about their needs and to inform them about our programming opportunities. Many companies have sent their employees to our training programs. Approximately 140 students enrolled in our noncredit courses in 2016. See Appendix A for a story centered around Plastikon, a local manufacturing company, about the impact we had on their workforce. Other manufacturing leaders have noted the high-quality of our technical, non-credit, short-courses.

2. Providing opportunities to area citizens to receive career pathways in technical areas.

Aside from industry training, we have enrolled individuals from the community in construction, HVAC, welding, health care, Industrial Engineering Technology, and preparatory courses in 2016. Unlike those in #1 above who were employed in the industry of their choice, these individuals were enrolled out of interest and for future potential. This has launched career pathway development for these individuals which did not exist prior to Peaslee Tech.

3. Providing support to area schools, non-profit agencies, and the community.

As noted in the opening paragraph, we have held career fairs, including one for 800 7th graders. This fair included more than 100 business representatives who either helped the children learn how to interview and talk to business representatives, or represented their business as a potential career option in the 7th graders' futures. We have also hosted two Journal World Job Fairs, which each attracted 300-400 people. We have provided tours to hundreds of school children from USD 497. These students came from technical courses, special needs areas, transitional students, Adult Education students, and the Future Cities program.

We have also presented to community clubs and organizations including the Cosmos Club, StopGap (for students transitioning out of foster care), Rotary, Lawrence Workforce Center, Lawrence Home Builders Association, PEO AZ Chapter, Endacott Society, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, and others. These presentations informed about our courses, programs, and related careers.

We provided our facility to: the LJW for the job fair in exchange for a booth, StopGap for career development classes, the Shelter for quarterly meetings, a Lawrence Workforce Center meeting, National Manufacturing Day activities, and others.

4. What barriers, if any, have you encountered?

Two key barriers include getting the word out enough so that Peaslee Tech is recognizable very broadly in the community. It may take more time for Peaslee Tech to become a household word in Lawrence. Despite all of the activity noted above and visits by or to more than 1800 people from June 2016 to December 31, 2016, we find that people within the community sometimes have not heard of Peaslee Tech or our programs. A second barrier is adequate and sustainable funding. The city and county have provided adequate operational funding in our early stages. However, additional funding is required to support our operational expenses as we expand and grow, and to solve future financing issues relating to our mortgage. One drain on our finances has been the aging infrastructure in our facility. The Economic Development Corporation has provided funding to upgrade the HVAC system, which will reduce the cost of

air conditioning significantly. We are working with the City and County to consider funding options for the future.

5. Review the line-item budget you provided in your application. How much of your allocation has been spent?

100% of the 2016 allocation was spent.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Industry: Manufacturing in Plastic (blow-fill-seal) and Healthcare
Company Name: Plastikon Healthcare
Location: Lawrence, Kansas
Date: October 28, 2016
Activity in this story: Industrial use of mechatronics

SUCCESS STORY INFORMATION

Title: From Great ROI in Kansas to China and Back at Plastikon

Company Profile:

Plastikon's global locations in North America and Asia meet customers' needs as conveniently and cost-effectively as possible. Ownership in each global location enables Plastikon to seamlessly and consistently deliver world-class manufacturing solutions to domestic and international customers. All global manufacturing sites are ISO certified and equipped with sophisticated and advanced equipment to ensure the highest product quality. From San Francisco to Asia and beyond, Plastikon is poised to manufacture items on-time and to specification. Plastikon Healthcare in Lawrence, Kansas is a FDA registered medical device contract manufacturer which has expertise in formulation of large volume solutions. It also has expertise in formulation of large volume solutions and blow-fill-seal and aseptic filling. The facility includes on-site chemistry and microbiology laboratories.

Peaslee Tech Profile

Peaslee Tech serves the Lawrence and Douglas County Kansas area by offering credit and noncredit training in areas including manufacturing, construction, HVAC, computers, and career development. Peaslee contracts area community colleges and technical schools for credit-based training. Peaslee develops and delivers noncredit custom courses for industry and the community. Peaslee's mission is to serve as a catalyst for economic growth, providing technical training to a diverse community of learners to meet the current and emerging needs of our communities and employers. Peaslee envisions a community with a technically skilled workforce that fosters retention, expansion, and attraction of business.

Situation

Plastikon Health, like many manufacturing facilities, relies on its community to provide a qualified workforce. Plastikon's needs are unique because of its specialization areas. It employs a minimal number of chemists and maintenance technicians, a limited number of line workers who understand working in a sterile environment, and a management staff. These unique needs require employees to learn from Plastikon or other training providers about mechatronics, electronics, electrical systems, pneumatics, hydraulics, and mechanical systems, among other skills. Developing appropriate tools requires creativity because Plastikon's blow-fill-seal process is unique. Plastikon needed to develop a prototype of a machine so it could increase productivity and, therefore, return on investment (ROI).

Solution and any Quantifiable Results

John Bradshaw joined Plastikon Healthcare in January 2015 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Kansas. John reviewed the training offered by Peaslee Tech and asked to attend a training program to round out his professional toolbox with hands-on learning experience on industrial maintenance. The class structure he chose was the Industrial Engineering Technology program. During the first class, John was very impressed, with not only the hands-on experience, but the instructor's depth of knowledge and the additional expertise that the class provided him. Incorporating some of the principles he

acquired by taking the class, John was able to take an ergonomic lifting device he had made to the next level. He worked as part of a team to develop a prototype bottle indexing line. His work ultimately resulted in a new piece of equipment used to package Plastikon's product. The new line enhancement had an ROI of less than one year and reduced labor needs by 1.75 staff per shift, per line. Due to his success on the new line, Plastikon's corporate office elected to send him to China to assist in the relocation and process transfer of a new line to their California site.

Other company comments

Sandy Dixon, Plastikon's Manager, noted, "John looks forward to continuing his education through Peaslee Tech to further enhance his knowledge tool box." Dixon also noted that, "During the first class, John was very impressed with not only the hands-on experience, but the depth of the knowledge of the instructors and the additional expertise that the class was providing."