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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
APRIL 30, 2014

Florida MEP's Grant-Funded Advanced Manufacturing Training Program Continues to Expand with Welding Classes in Tampa

Florida MEP (FLMEP) Advanced Manufacturing Technology Training, paid for by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, has trained 178 individuals and placed 156 new hires into well-paying jobs with employers in multiple industries

Celebration, Florida, April 30, 2014 — Florida Manufacturing Extension Partnership ([FLMEP](#)) is pleased to announce the newest training class under the H-1B grant that was awarded to the FLMEP in 2011. This private-Federal partnership has trained 178 individuals and placed 156 individuals into well-paying jobs with significant career growth potential. FLMEP's current grant-funded welding class in Tampa, Florida is comprised of 21 trainees.

Tampa Tank / Florida Structural Steel, one of the country's top steel fabricators, serves as FLMEP's Advanced Manufacturing Training Program's host employer and is seeking professional welders for their expanding growth goals in Florida.

"We are very pleased to have the opportunity to work with such a professional employer as Tampa Tank," said FLMEP Welding Instructor Mike Myers.

"Tampa Tank / Florida Structural Steel is one of the top steel fabricators in America and has been in the same location here in Tampa since 1953. They are experiencing record growth and are delivering some of the most complicated engineering projects in the world. Their commitment to growing and expanding their quality manufacturing team of workers is evident in everything we see from their management and owners team with the commitment in this training program. The plant manager of the Adamo Facility, Rodney Hunter, has

welcomed our training team by assisting in all training segments and providing top-notch training facilities, aids and training space,” added Myers.

“This is our third training class delivered to Tampa Tank through the U.S. Department of Labor H-1B grant project, and Tampa Tank is making every effort to seek out the finest quality welders and craftsmen in the industry. Over 20% of the training applicants have relocated to Tampa to take advantage of this training and employment opportunity. This is, without a doubt, one of the most committed group of applicants we have experienced in our training, and we are looking forward to delivering a great new wave of craftsmanship and committed employees to Tampa Tank at graduation,” Myers said.

The Florida MEP (FLMEP) Advanced Manufacturing Technology Training Program utilizes high-tech mobile classrooms equipped with CNC machines and the latest in welding training equipment to deliver customized training at individual company sites.

FLMEP’s advanced manufacturing classes are being provided to qualified candidates who have the potential to be hired by manufacturers within the 23 Florida High Tech Corridor counties. As the training is completely funded by a grant, there is no cost to manufacturers or trainees to participate.

A number of individuals in Florida who have been unemployed or underemployed, now have high-paying jobs as welders and CNC operators as a result of Florida MEP’s (FLMEP’s) grant-funded Advanced Manufacturing Training Program. The FLMEP training program has placed new hires into well-paying jobs with employers in multiple industries such as aviation/aerospace including customized aircraft, composite fabricators for aircraft interiors, firearm manufacturers, ship building and repair, stainless steel medical-related equipment, specialized seating for NASCAR and aerospace, and components used in nuclear energy.

Following are comments from several trainees in the current class of the FLMEP Advanced Manufacturing Technology Training Program:

Jonathan Vasquez: "My experience here at Tampa Tank has been excellent. They have given me so much knowledge in my career that no schooling has done. For the first time I feel like there is a company that cares, and I feel like I am finally advancing in my career. This is a great opportunity for me and for my family; it will allow me to relocate and provide for them. Going through this program has also landed me a stable job with a company that has a great background."

Gary Miller: "I think this is a great program, in my case especially refamiliarizing myself with stick welding and blueprint reading and brushing up on safety procedures. The instructors are very informative."

Bruce Berray: "This is a great program, I learned a lot over the two weeks of training. I was able to sharpen my skills to be able to secure a good job."

Bruce Duncan: "The (FLMEP) program is very informative. . .in the short time I've been with this program I've gained knowledge I forgot 20+ years ago. I feel refreshed! I feel these people have cared about me. They take time to listen. . .these men came to help instruct and send out men with the tools to succeed. Awesome program!"

FLMEP's Advanced Manufacturing Technology Training classes under this grant will continue through 2015 and will train and place new hires into advanced manufacturing companies throughout Florida's High Tech Corridor.

For more information about the FLMEP grant-funded Advanced Manufacturing Technology Training Program, call Carol Wheatley, Director of the FLMEP H-1B Program at 321-626-4483.

About Florida MEP (FLMEP)

The Florida Manufacturing Extension Partnership ([FLMEP](http://www.floridamep.org)) is a not-for-profit organization that provides assistance to manufacturers in identifying and implementing advanced manufacturing and management technologies, enabling them to grow and compete in the global market. FLMEP provides access to technology for improved productivity, workforce training in Lean manufacturing, ISO / ITAR compliance, exporting logistics and supply chain integration. Through FLMEP programs, which are often funded by grants, manufacturers learn tactics to innovate, save money, implement more efficient management strategies and Lean manufacturing methodologies—offering immediate bottom-line improvements.

The FLMEP has recently restructured for strategic growth to keep pace with its goals of serving and meeting the training and development needs of Florida's manufacturing community. The core team of FLMEP delivery specialists continue to offer the quality programs and services they have provided to manufacturers the past two decades. FLMEP is currently expanding their team of industry experts to be able to meet and exceed organizational objectives and continue to help manufacturing clients improve their competitiveness and bottom lines. For more information about FLMEP programs and services, please visit www.floridamep.org or call 321-939-4000.

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Manufacturers to See Boost in Skilled Employees With New Training Program *DVIRC Partners with Fiber-Line to Pilot First Mobile Manufacturing Program in Southeastern PA*

PHILADELPHIA and HATFIELD, PA (June 14, 2012) – A new manufacturing training program, [Mobile Outreach Skills Training \(M.O.S.T.®\)](#), is launching in the Greater Philadelphia region to help meet the growing demand for specialized manufacturing talent. The unique training program is being introduced to Southeastern Pennsylvania manufacturers through the [Delaware Valley Industrial Research Center \(DVIRC\)](#), an economic development organization that focuses exclusively on the region's manufacturing community, and [Fiber-Line, Inc.](#), a growing manufacturing company in Montgomery County that is piloting the program and committed to hiring the trainees.

M.O.S.T.® is a fast-track, intensive skills training, recruitment, assessment and placement program, which prepares unemployed and underemployed individuals for front line production jobs in a fraction of the time of traditional programs. It is the only training program that begins with a commitment from an employer to hire the individuals who successfully complete an initial two-week training. Areas of concentration include machining and machine operation, CNC and welding.

“M.O.S.T.® provided a tremendous opportunity for our Company to tailor a training program to fit our exact business needs and to help develop high-demand manufacturing skills among the unemployed or underemployed locally,” said Jeff Tintle, chief operations officer at Fiber-Line. “We are confident that the program will quickly result in productive and invaluable team members who will help us advance our business goals.”

“Introducing M.O.S.T.® to our region is a big win for local manufacturers and their communities and we proudly commend Fiber-Line for undertaking the inaugural pilot program,” said Joseph J. Houldin, chief executive officer of DVIRC. “In any given month, there are more than 1,000 local manufacturing jobs that simply cannot be filled as a result of unqualified prospects —this represents a significant loss of opportunity for residents in the region. We believe that this new initiative will create a skilled labor force to begin filling that employment void.”

The first group of eleven (11) trainees is set to graduate Friday, June 15 in a company celebration and will immediately move on to a second phase of on-the-job training. The 26-week training program consists of three phases:

- Phase 1: Two weeks of intensive skills training based on a customized curriculum developed jointly by the technical training staff and the sponsoring employer. The training takes place on a state-of-the-art mobile unit equipped with 3-D machining and welding simulators. Once complete, the trainees graduate and enter their new jobs.

- Phase 2: Eight weeks of on-the-job mentor-based training, leading to the ability of trainees to independently operate sophisticated manufacturing machines or perform other technically advanced job functions.
- Phase 3: Sixteen weeks of on-site advanced mentoring to ensure the success and advancement of the new hire in the workplace.

Since its inception in 2006, M.O.S.T.® has served nearly 1,000 workers in eight states with a training completion rate of 97 percent, a job placement rate of 95 percent and a six-month job retention rate of 91 percent.

The Montgomery County Workforce Investment Board is supporting the program; and the PA Department of Labor and Industry is conducting two separate pilot programs in the region. The Norristown Career Link helped to identify and screen recruits.

For more information, please visit www.mostjobstraining.com.

About Fiber Line

Fiber-Line® Inc., founded in 1987 and headquartered in Hatfield, Pa, is an International company providing high-performance, coated, specialty fibers to the Fiber Optic Cable, Oil and Gas, Composite and Industrial markets. With over 160 employees and three manufacturing facilities (Hatfield, PA, Hickory, NC and Leeuwarden, The Netherlands) Fiber-Line is the Knowledge Center for Fiber Technology supplying custom solutions to over fifty countries throughout the world. For more information, visit www.fiber-lineinc.com.

About DVIRC

DVIRC is a private, non-profit economic development organization established in 1988 to serve the needs of 4,500 small and mid-sized manufacturers in five counties throughout the Philadelphia region. The organization's primary focus is to grow business value for clients through consulting services (strategic planning, market, sales, product development, and operational excellence), training and education, executive network groups and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) talent development. Our vision is to establish the region as an internationally recognized leader in manufacturing competitiveness. We believe growing business value improves the standard of living and quality of life for those that live and/or work in the region. DVIRC maintains multi-year performance based contracts with the National Institute of Standards & Technology Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NIST/MEP) under the U.S. Department of Commerce and Pennsylvania's Department of Community & Economic Development. DVIRC is a co-applicant and founding member of the Energy Efficient Buildings Hub (EEB Hub). A diverse board of directors comprised of executives from the manufacturing, banking, legal and economic development communities govern the DVIRC.

Florida Governor Rick Scott Tours M.O.S.T. Mobile Training Lab 2011



Governor Rick Scott Tours M.O.S.T. Mobile Training Lab

Florida Governor Rick Scott toured the **MOST** (Mobile Outreach Skills Training) vehicle in Orlando as part of his initiatives to support military simulation and job training programs in the region.

The MOST vehicle is a massive, 18-wheel, 45-foot mobile simulator equipped with high-tech VR simulation systems. It allows individuals and military personnel to engage in highly realistic, interactive virtual welding training across the state. During his visits to the **NAWCTSD** (Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division) in Orlando, Gov. Scott regularly highlighted how these high-fidelity mobile training units boost the state's workforce capabilities.

Veterans 'great employees'

Saturday, March 12, 2011

By JIM KINNEY

Business writer

SPRINGFIELD - Two of the city's largest employers -Smith & Wesson and Bay state Health - reaffirmed their commitments to hiring veterans with separate events Friday at their respective locations.

Bay state Health had a ceremony detailing its work with the Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces, a public-private partnership that connects veterans and current members of the National Guard and Reserves with civilian employment opportunities.

Gun maker Smith & Wesson hired 10 veterans the same day they graduated from an intensive two-week precision manufacturing course offered by the Mobile Outreach Skills Training program of the Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership, an industry group that provides technical assistance and training opportunities to manufacturers.

Smith & Wesson is relocating 225 jobs from Rochester, N.H., to its Springfield plant as it consolidates manufacturing of its Thompson /Center rifle brand.

"We know that we have a need to fill some very skilled jobs," said Paul J. Pluff, director of marketing and customer service at Smith & Wesson.

Pluff said these are manufacturing jobs paying from \$17 to \$20 an hour.

At Bay state, David J. Lussier of Chicopee is an operating-room nurse.

In military life, he's Army Capt. David J. Lussier of the 405 Combat Support Hospital based in West Hartford. Many of his Army Reserve colleagues have difficulty getting their civilian employers to work with their military commitments.

"Here at Bay state I've never had problems working around my training schedule. I just give them my orders and they give me the time away," he said. "Others are not that lucky."

Michael D. Tanner is manager of the nuclear medicine program at Bay state Medical Center in Springfield and a Navy veteran having served during the Vietnam era. He said military skills, especially when it comes to the medical fields, are readily transferable to a hospital setting.

"It's fantastic training that the hospital doesn't have to do," Tanner said. "Veterans make great employees."

Tanner said Vietnam veterans often returned home to a lot of animosity and sometimes had difficulty getting jobs.

"Today, people are much more welcoming," he said. "Those attitudes have improved."

Also on Friday, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics said the unemployment rate for veterans who served at any time since September 2001 was 11.5 percent in 2010. The jobless rate for veterans of all eras combined was 8.7 percent, a figure likely skewed by the large number of older veterans, compared with 9.4 percent for non-veterans.

The Bureau of Labor statistics placed some of the blame on veterans being younger and more likely to be male than the population at large. Young men have had a hard time in this economy because industries like manufacturing and construction got hit hard.

Young male veterans ages 18 to 24 had an unemployment rate of 21.9 percent in 2010, not statistically different from the jobless rate of young male nonveterans which was 19.7 percent.

WINning in the Delta

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 4

FEBRUARY, 2011

M.O.S.T. Continues to Provide Opportunities for The Delta



M.O.S.T. Graduates for GE Aviations' Fourth class in Batesville.

The Mobile Outreach Skills Training (M.O.S.T.) staff has completed four classes for Batesville GE Aviation with a total of 108 students. Another class is scheduled for April.

GE Aviation HR Leader Terry Collins noted, "Participation in the MOST Program has allowed our new employees to get up to speed and become productive faster than they might have otherwise."

Classes have also been held for Faurecia in Cleveland. To date, a total of 138 people have been placed in the state with an estimated five year economic impact of \$150 million.

Time Wise Management Systems, Inc. is a privately held company founded in 1998. Their Mobile Outreach Skills Training prepares workers for skilled job, places them in well-paying entry level positions after two weeks of intensive training, and gives follow-up.

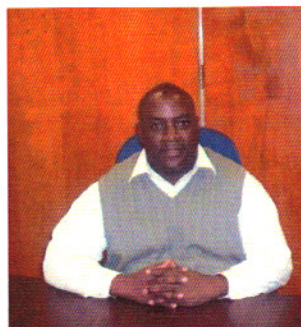
Governor Barbour funded the program known in the Delta as D-STAMP through a \$300,000 grant as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. DWIA and South Delta Planning and Development District assisted with implementing the program.

Eason to Lead Indianola WIN Job Center

Frank Eason has been selected as manager of the Indianola WIN Job Center. Frank has been employed with MDES for over nine years. During his employment Frank has held the positions of Disabled Veterans' Outreach Specialist and Employment Interviewer II. He has demonstrated great leadership ability as well as a thorough knowledge of the services and programs of the WIN Job Center. Most recently Frank has been responsible for the day to day opera-

tions of the Belzoni and Rolling Fork WIN Job Centers. Frank is a Veteran of the United States Army with twenty years of service.

Said Eason, "I am excited and honored for the opportunity to lead such a professional staff. We will continue to provide great customer services and will strive to increase employment in the Delta Workforce Area."



Frank Eason, new manager.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *SETA March 6-9th in Greensboro, NC*
- *DWIA Board meeting April 21 in Batesville, MS*
- *South Delta Planning and Development District is an equal opportunity employer/program.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT:

Monday, February 28, 2011 Monique James - 513-557-9299

Innovative Workforce Mobile Training Unit Will Visit Frankfort for Legislative Tour

Frankfurt, KY: One of the country's most innovative program for delivering workforce training – the Mobile Outreach Skills Training (M.O.S.T.®) program – will be highlighted at the State Capitol in Frankfort on Tuesday, March 1, 2011. The M.O.S.T.® state-of-the-art mobile training unit (MTU) will also be available for tours. Developed by Time Wise Management Systems, the training program which comes to Kentucky from Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Florida and Mississippi, has won widespread support for helping hundreds of unemployed workers obtain manufacturing jobs.

“We’re pleased to showcase the M.O.S.T.® mobile training program to Kentucky legislators,” said Dr. Claudia Follet, Director of Grants and Partnership Development for Time Wise. “Manufacturing jobs are out there for workers with the right skill set. Utilizing the MTU we can demonstrate how innovative solutions can help unemployed workers acquire good jobs, even in these tough economic times. At the same time, we ease the pain of the manufacturers seeking specialized qualified workers in a timely manner.

Utilized most recently by workforce training boards in Florida and Mississippi, the mobile training program, with a strong focus on recruiting veterans, women and minorities, brings together manufacturers who have job openings with applicants seeking employment. A two-week intensive customized training program is developed to teach trainees the skills needed by the employer. This customized approach has resulted in an extraordinarily high job placement rate of over 90 percent.

The M.O.S.T.® MTU is equipped with the latest industrial technology, offering participants a two-week intensive learning program on cutting-edge equipment. The mobility brings training to areas where jobs and potential employees are located, including an employer's plant site.

“The program works with local manufacturers who help us determine what they need in terms of workers and skill sets. Then we know how to help them get the workforce they need. We train job applicants with our specialized mobile equipment on the site of their potential employer. Trainees acquire both the theoretical knowledge and hands-on practice to master the skills required by a company's production process,” said Dr. Follett.

The mobile classroom on wheels offers several advantages over traditional worker training programs.

First, the training program can be customized to meet the needs of a particular employer. This shortens the length of time needed for trainees to become productive employees and increases the attractiveness of the training program for small manufacturers.

Second, the mobile training unit can be located at the employer's facility or at a location that is

convenient for trainees. This flexibility in training delivery is particularly important for rural manufacturers who may not be located near a community college or other training facility.

Third, participating employers commit to hiring trainees who successfully complete the program. This enhances trainee motivation because participants know that a job with additional on-the-job training awaits them.

Information about the MO.S.T.® program will be provided to legislators at a luncheon sponsored by Time Wise Management Systems on Tuesday, March 1 at 11:30 a.m. in the Capitol Annex Legislative Dining Room. Tours of the MTU will commence at 12:30 p.m. outside the Capitol Annex.

Members of the media are invited to tour the MTU.

The M.O.S.T.® MTU will also be available for tours of manufacturing companies upon request. Please call Monique James to schedule a tour for your company at a later date.

Specialized Mobile Job Training Unit Offers Glimpse into Unique Program

Olive Branch, Miss. – Today locals were offered a look into a unique mobile training facility temporarily located at A.L.P. Lighting Components in Olive Branch. The **Rapid Advanced Manufacturing Placement program, or RAMP**, is a two-week mobile job training program financed through federal stimulus funds designed to help workers sharpen their manufacturing skills.

Housed in a mobile unit outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment, the two-week intensive training program teaches workers the latest in manufacturing technology, improving their skills and heightening their chances for job placement. RAMP's mobility enables it to go where the unemployed are, making it not only a unique workforce training program but a timely one as well.

Three Rivers Planning and Development District WIA Adult Program Director Gary Golden said A.L.P. Lighting Components is taking advantage of training opportunities provided by Time Wise Management Systems through the RAMP Program, which is funded by a \$500,000 grant from the Governor's office and implemented through a partnership involving Three Rivers Planning and Development District, the Mississippi Partnership, Delta Workforce Investment Area and Time Wise Management Systems. The program is provided at no cost to employers.

"This is a wonderful opportunity that reinforces our commitment to develop our employees," commented Jeff Benton, Senior Vice President at A.L.P. Lighting Components. "When an organization offers to train your employees, it's an opportunity that is hard to refuse, especially when we depend on a highly-trained workforce. It enables us to reduce the amount of time it takes for an employee to become productive."

Time Wise Management Systems, Inc. is a privately held company founded in 1998 as a Lean business consulting company working with both nonprofit and for-profit entities. Time Wise has grown into a diversified consulting company with international experience and a staff of over 100 professionals, including 70 full-time Lean consultants and a number of strategic partners. Working with businesses in all sectors, Time Wise recognizes the need for rapid, mobile entry-level training. Their Mobile Outreach Skills Training prepares workers, often disadvantaged, for skilled jobs and places them in well-paying entry level positions after two weeks of intensive training.

A.L.P. Lighting Components, Inc., is a global leader in the manufacturing of lighting components, offering a diverse line of products for lighting OEMs and the aftermarket. From fluorescent to HID applications, A.L.P. offers the industry's most comprehensive line of plastic and metal parabolic louvers, baffles and reflectors, to a broad range of plastic lenses, extruded sheet products, wiring devices, vapor-proof enclosures and unwired fixture bodies. Brands include Steel Craft fluorescent housings, LexaLite precision injection molded refractors and reflectors, and Triboro wiring devices. With manufacturing plants in the U.S., Mexico, and Europe, and distribution centers strategically located throughout the U.S., Europe, Latin America and South

The Time Wise mobile training facility conducting RAMP training is currently located at the A.L.P. Lighting Components plant at 10630 Marina Drive in the Metro Industrial Park.

The unit will be available for media tours on Wednesday, December 15, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Program participants and instructors will be available for comment at this time.

Specialized Mobile Job Training Facility at ALP Lighting Components in Olive Branch

Olive Branch, Miss. – Workers looking to hone their skills for job placement are participating in the **Rapid Advanced Manufacturing Placement** program, or RAMP, the mobile job training program financed through federal “stimulus” (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) money to help manufacturers find qualified employees. The 10-day specialized training program is being held December 6 – December 17 at the A.L.P. Lighting Components plant at 10630 Marina Drive in the Metro Industrial Park in Olive Branch.

The program is being implemented through a partnership involving Three Rivers Planning and Development District, the Mississippi Partnership, Delta Workforce Investment Area and Time Wise Management Systems. The program is provided at no cost to employers and is funded by a \$500,000 grant from the Governor’s office.

Time Wise Management Systems, Inc., was founded in 1998 as a Lean business consulting company working with both nonprofit and for-profit entities. Today it provides products and consulting services to increase productivity, revenue and economic impact.

Inside the RAMP traveling unit, equipped with the latest industrial technology, participants learn new manufacturing skills during two weeks of intense training. During the self-paced program, workers learn practical skills on cutting-edge equipment. RAMP’s mobility can bring training to areas where jobs and potential employees are located, including an employer’s plant site.

“The Rapid Advanced Manufacturing Placement (RAMP) program is designed to assist entry-level workers interested in working with manufacturing,” commented Gary Golden, Three Rivers Planning and Development District WIA Adult Program Director. “We will be working with local manufacturers like A.L.P. Lighting Components to determine their hiring needs, then recruiting dislocated workers, low-income individuals and veterans for an assessment and intensive job skills training program. The training is in a special mobile facility on-site, so trainees have exposure to a manufacturing environment.”

Since its inception in 1972, A.L.P. Lighting Components has grown from a small, family-owned manufacturing operation, to an international powerhouse, with state-of-the-art manufacturing and distribution operations and nearly 1,000 employees in nine locations. The plant in Olive Branch handles plastic extrusion and forming operations. Its primary products include plastic sheet and formed lenses in acrylic and polycarbonate.

“This is a wonderful opportunity that reinforces our commitment to develop our employees,” commented Jeff Benton, Senior Vice President at A.L.P. Lighting Components. “When an organization offers to train your employees, it’s an opportunity that is hard to refuse, especially when we depend on a highly-trained workforce. It enables us to reduce the amount of time it takes for an employee to become productive.”

DeSoto County Economic Development Council President/CEO Jim Flanagan also commented on the new program. “This is a critical time for workers in our country and in DeSoto County.

It's imperative that we do everything we can to help them find employment. We're very pleased that we can utilize this special training here. In these challenging economic times, we salute the Governor's office's relentless support for economic development and their foresight in funding a program that makes an immediate, positive difference for both employers and employees. We look forward to seeing more companies take advantage of this unique opportunity."

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America, A.L.P. remains the industry's foremost supplier of feature differentiated products processes and lighting innovations.

Three Rivers Planning & Development District, Inc. serves as the fiscal/administrative agent for The Mississippi Partnership, one of four workforce investment areas in the state of Mississippi designated to carry out the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA). The Mississippi Partnership workforce area covers 27 counties in north and northeast Mississippi and is governed by a 62-member board and 27 Chief Elected Officials. The Mississippi Partnership is responsible for establishing and maintaining a workforce system that provides the highest quality services while providing a skilled workforce.

For additional information contact:

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For Immediate Release:

EDC AND FLORIDA MEP OFFER FREE TRAINING FOR MANUFACTURING COMPANIES THROUGH M.O.S.T. ®

NAPLES, FLORIDA (July 8, 2010) – The Economic Development Council of Collier County (EDC), in partnership with the Florida Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), is offering free training for entry-level manufacturing positions through the Time Wise Mobile Outreach Skills Training (M.O.S.T. ®) program.

The EDC is reaching out to local manufacturing companies to find those interested in participating; companies must commit to hiring entry-level workers by early fall. Once the EDC has a minimum of ten positions committed, the training can take place. Without the ten positions, the EDC and Collier County miss out on this great opportunity.

"Manufacturing is a targeted industry in Collier County. We work with those companies to meet their needs and often hear about the lack of skilled labor. When we learned of the opportunity to bring a training program to Collier, at no charge to the manufacturers, we started working on it right away," said Bill O'Neill, Chairman of the EDC.

The M.O.S.T. ® program, created by Time Wise Management Systems, is an intensely-focused practical skills, theory and hands-on curriculum that uses a process of both computer-based 3-D simulations and hands-on self-paced training modules. The program involves comprehensive training in shop math, blueprint reading and metrology, computer numerical control (CNC) machine milling and turning, as well as fundamental manufacturing skills.

The M.O.S.T. ® program is different because it relies on manufacturers to establish the demand for entry level positions and trains the appropriate number of people to satisfy that demand. They work with the local workforce development boards to find the right candidates for the job and conduct a significant amount of screening to ensure that the best candidates receive the training and jobs.

"The two-week intensive training by M.O.S.T. provides new hires with sufficient initial skills that enable them to immediately begin contributing to the company's overall performance. Not only does M.O.S.T. provide job specific skills, but also provides good employee skills. What M.O.S.T. provides in two weeks would normally take months of on-the-job training and with much less formality. We highly recommend M.O.S.T. to any company that needs highly motivated and semi-skilled employees that otherwise would not [be] available," said John Goings, General Manager, Kreiger Machine Company, Inc.

The M.O.S.T. ® program content is designed to train people for the jobs of the future in a new, greener economy. It trains and places people with little or no prior experience into entry level production jobs in a fraction of the time of traditional programs. This program provides an opportunity to lift the new hires and their families out of poverty, provide health insurance for the first time and position them for career ladders that allow long-term growth and higher earning potential. The training modules can be customized to the specific needs of the employer and the skill sets of the students and are available in English or Spanish. To watch a video about the M.O.S.T. ® program, [click here](#).

Please contact Brooke Gabrielsen at Brooke@enaplesflorida.com or 239.263.8989 ext. 109 if you are interested in hiring entry-level manufacturing employees for this program.

If you are an individual interested in training, please contact the Career Services Center at 239.436.4301. For more information about M.O.S.T. ® and the Florida MEP, visit <http://www.timewisems.com/MOST.html> and www.floridamep.org.

For more information about the many advantages to locating or expanding a business in Collier County, contact the Economic Development Council of Collier County at (239) 263-8989, or find us on-line at www.eNaplesFlorida.com.

* * * * *

About the Economic Development Council of Collier County

Founded in 1976, the Economic Development Council of Collier County (EDC) is a private, not-for-profit corporation with a mission to diversify the economy and create high wage jobs. The EDC, through a Public/Private Partnership for Economic Diversification, created in 1997 with the Collier County Board of Commissioners has developed a 5-year strategic plan focused on innovation and entrepreneurship. The 2010-2015 Economy by Design plan includes five key strategic elements: Business Expansion & Attraction; Economic Gardening; Project Innovation; Regional Branding & Marketing; and Investor Relations. All of these elements combine to create a business-friendly environment that focuses on a strong entrepreneurial support system that will grow a world class vibrant economy. Contact the EDC at 239-263-8989 or on the web at www.eNaplesFlorida.com

Tammie Nemecek serves as President of the Economic Development Council of Collier County.

July 7, 2010

CONTACT: Claudia Follet
321-939-4000
claudiaf@timewisems.com

Specialized Mobile Job Training Facility Begins Second Class at GE Aviation's Batesville Plant

Batesville, Miss. – A second mobile job training class has begun at GE Aviation in Batesville. The **Disadvantaged Short-Term Advanced Manufacturing Program (D-STAMP)**, a mobile job training program financed through federal “stimulus” (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) money, helps manufacturers find qualified employees.

Recently touted by Governor Haley Barbour as “a great tool to have trained workers and do it in short order,” the program completed its first session last week. Working with businesses in all sectors, consulting company Time Wise Management Systems recognizes the need for rapid, mobile entry-level training. Their Mobile Outreach Skills Training prepares workers, often disadvantaged, for skilled jobs and places them in well-paying entry level positions after two weeks of intensive training. Governor Barbour added that this program is about more than just getting a job – participants are gaining skills for a career.

Funded by a grant from the Mississippi Governor's office, the \$300,000 program is provided at no cost to employers and is being implemented through a partnership involving Delta Workforce Investment Area, South Delta Planning and Development District and Time Wise Management Systems, a Lean business consulting company that provides products and consulting services to increase productivity, revenue and economic impact.

At a recent press conference at the plant, GE Aviation's General Manager for Composite Centers of Excellence Jerry Kroger joined Governor Barbour in praising the program, saying that the training provided by the program is very important to GE and will help employees as they work on self-directed teams where they will lead and make decisions. The Batesville plant opened in 2008 and currently employs 160 people. The workforce will grow to more than 200 by 2011.

Time Wise Management Systems, Inc., was founded in 1998 as a Lean business consulting company working with both nonprofit and for-profit entities. Today it provides products and consulting services to increase productivity, revenue and economic impact.

GE Aviation, an operating unit of GE (NYSE: GE), is a world-leading provider of jet and turboprop engines, components and integrated systems for commercial and military aircraft. GE Aviation has a global service network to support these offerings.

South Delta Planning & Development District serves as the fiscal/administrative agent for Delta Workforce Investment Area (DWIA), one of four workforce investment areas in the state of Mississippi designated to carry out the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA). As an increasing number of federal programs are passed to the states, DWIA is continually called upon to assist in developing the delivery of these services to local residents. This assistance is currently provided by a staff of 50 professionals. The programs are all-inclusive from the elderly to the young; from the disadvantaged unemployed to the large corporate employers; from the renters to the homeowners; from the federal government to the unincorporated areas of the rural Delta.

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Governor Haley Barbour and Panola Representatives Joe Gardner and Warner McBride (left and right, at right) on Wednesday joined newly-hired GE Aviation employees who are completing intensive training to prepare them for their new jobs. The Batesville composite manufacturing facility expects to employ 220 by year's end, a spokesman said. The Panolian photo by John Howell Sr.

Governor praises worker training program at GE

By John Howell Sr.

Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour addressed the significance of workforce training at GE Aviation Wednesday in Batesville, along with the importance of D-STAMP, a unique workforce training program targeting businesses and workers in the Mississippi Delta.

The governor's visit coincided with the training of an additional 24 new workers hired through the Disadvantaged Short-Term Advanced Manufacturing Program (D-STAMP). D-STAMP provides a mobile job training initiative that will work with Delta companies at no cost to quickly train workers for highly skilled jobs. Governor Barbour funded the program through a \$300,000 grant as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. D-STAMP is administered by Time Wise Management Systems, a lean business consulting company.

"I look forward to seeing the program in place at GE. Each newly trained worker is an asset to the plant, which makes him or her an asset to his community, and to the State of Mississippi," commented Governor Barbour. "This is a tremendous step toward economic growth for our state."

The Delta Workforce Investment Area and South Delta Planning and Development District are assisting with implementation of the program.

D-STAMP is training participants at GE Aviation from June 1–11. The traveling unit is equipped with the latest industrial technology where participants learn practical manufacturing skills during the two weeks of intense training.

Zack Turner of Enid, Carla Edlin of Sardis and Jessica Frison and William Carwell, both of Batesville, were among the trainees readying to hit the GE Aviation plant floor on Monday. All agreed that the customized training period had been “intense.” Frison said that the pay and benefits offered are “the best I’ve ever had,” another statement her three co-workers agreed with.

“This is not about getting a job,” Barbour said. “This about getting the skills to have a career.”

“D-STAMP is for entry-level workers who want to go into manufacturing,” commented Mitzi Woods, Delta Workforce Investment Area director. “When a local manufacturer like GE Aviation needs trained employees, they help us determine exactly what they’re looking for. After we know their particular needs, we train the workers on-site at the plant, using our specialized mobile equipment.”

“GE Aviation’s Batesville facility is doubling its workforce this year and hiring an additional 120 employees to handle our increasing workload,” commented Jeanne Edwards, Batesville plant leader for GE Aviation. “Time Wise will help us train these new employees to ensure they have the right skills that they need to succeed in their new jobs.”

Time Wise Management Systems, Inc. was founded in 1998 as a lean business consulting company working with both nonprofit and for-profit entities.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dr. Claudia Follet
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**MISSISSIPPI GOVERNOR, GE AVIATION GM
PRAISE THE TRAINING OF WORKFORCE**

BATESVILLE, MISS. – Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour and GE Aviation General Manager for Composite Centers of Excellence Jerry Kroger joined in praising the work of Time Wise Management Systems Mobile Outreach Skills Training (M.O.S.T) program in preparing new workers for skilled training at the GE Aviation facility here.

Referring to the M.O.S.T. program, Governor Barbour said, “This program is a great tool to have trained workers and do it in short order.” Looking back to the beginning of his administration, the Governor noted the lack of emphasis on workforce development that has since been a key emphasis of his administration.

“When the vice chairman of GE announced that his company would be locating a sophisticated composite fan blade facility in North Mississippi, he said ‘this is the most sophisticated manufacturing we do anywhere in the world, and we will do it in Batesville, Mississippi,’” the Governor said. “There was a time that would have been a disconnect. GE loves it (workforce training), and we will add to the workforce as the plant continues to grow,” the Governor continued.

“This is about more than getting a job,” the Governor added, “It is attaining skills for a career.”

GE Aviation's Kroger noted that the training provided by M.O.S.T is very important to GE in that they will work on self-directed work teams where they will help lead and make decisions. The Batesville plant opened in 2008 and currently employs 160 employees. The workforce will grow to more than 200 by 2011.

Kroger commented that their current workforce needs exceed the company's original projections by 20 percent. The State's commitment to helping provide a skilled labor pool through various tools including Time Wise has been a major reason for GE Aviation's success in Batesville. Kroger presented the Governor's Office a fan blade manufactured by GE Aviation as a token of appreciation to him and the State for the support they have provided to the facility.

Delta Workforce Investment Area Director Mitzi Woods said GE Aviation is taking advantage of training opportunities being provided by Time Wise Management Systems through the D-STAMP Program funded by the Governor's office and administered by the Delta Workforce Development Area.

Time Wise Management Systems, Inc. is a privately held company founded in 1998 as a Lean business consulting company working with both nonprofit and for-profit entities. Time Wise has grown into a diversified consulting company with international experience and a staff of over 100 professionals, including 70 full-time Lean consultants and a number of strategic partners.

Working with businesses in all sectors, Time Wise recognizes the need for rapid, mobile entry-level training. Their Mobile Outreach Skills Training prepares workers, often disadvantaged, for skilled jobs and places them in well-paying entry level positions after two weeks of intensive training.

D-STAMP, the Disadvantaged Short-Term Advanced Manufacturing Program, is a mobile job training initiative that will work with Delta companies at no cost to quickly train workers for highly skilled jobs. Governor Barbour funded the program through a \$300,000 grant as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Barber recently commented, “D-STAMP is the type of innovative approach we need to quickly prepare workers in the Mississippi Delta for the highly technical jobs our state is attracting. I thank all our partners for bringing D-STAMP to Mississippi companies, and I appreciate the commitment of GE Aviation to Mississippi.”

The Delta Workforce Investment Area and South Delta Planning and Development District are assisting with implementation of the program.



June 2, 2010

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**Governor Haley Barbour to Hold News Conference at
Specialized Mobile Job Training Facility at Batesville
GE Aviation Plant**

Batesville, Miss. – Governor Haley Barbour on June 9 will welcome the participants in D-STAMP, a unique workforce training program targeting businesses and workers in the Mississippi Delta. The event will be at 2:30 p.m. at GE Aviation, 1450 Mississippi Route 6, in Batesville.

D-STAMP, the Disadvantages Short-Term Advanced Manufacturing Program, is a mobile job training initiative that will work with Delta companies at no cost to quickly train workers for highly skilled jobs. Governor Barbour funded the program through a \$300,000 grant as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. D-STAMP will be administered by Time Wise Management Systems, a Lean business consulting company.

“D-STAMP is the type of innovative approach we need to quickly prepare workers in the Mississippi Delta for the highly technical jobs our state is attracting,” Governor Barbour said. “I thank all our partners for bringing D-STAMP to Mississippi companies, and I appreciate the commitment of GE Aviation to Mississippi.”

The Delta Workforce Investment Area and South Delta Planning and Development District are assisting with implementation of the program.

“GE Aviation’s Batesville facility is doubling its workforce this year and hiring an additional 120 employees to handle our increasing workload,” commented Jeanne Edwards, Batesville plant manager for GE Aviation. “Time Wise will help us train these new employees to ensure they have the right skills that they need to succeed in their new jobs.”

D-STAMP will be at GE Aviation from June 1 – 11. The traveling unit is equipped with the latest industrial technology where participants learn practical manufacturing skills during the two weeks of intense training. D-STAMP’s mobility can bring training to Delta companies where jobs and potential employees are located, including an employer’s plant site.

“D-STAMP is for entry-level workers who want to go into manufacturing,” commented Mitzi Woods, Delta Workforce Investment Area Director. “When a local manufacturer like GE Aviation needs trained employees, they help us determine exactly what they’re looking for. After we know their particular needs, we train the workers on-site at the plant, using our specialized mobile equipment.”

“The City of Batesville and the area are pleased to see GE Aviation participate in the D-STAMP program,” commented Sonny Simmons, Executive Director of the Panola Partnership. “Any time training is available to workers, it’s a plus, and on-site training is incredible. These employees will have a lot of practical training under their belt when they start their on-the-job training on the shop floor. This is great for GE Aviation. It’s great for Batesville.”

GE Aviation, an operating unit of GE (NYSE: GE), is a world-leading provider of jet and turboprop engines, components and integrated systems for commercial and military aircraft. GE Aviation has a global service network to support these offerings.

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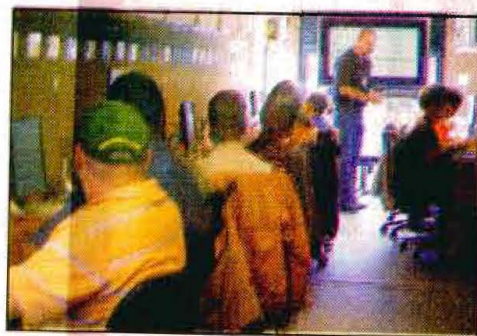
Luvata first in state to use new mobile training facility

262 By LEANN McCOY
Staff Writer

Grenada citizens were offered a look Wednesday into a unique mobile training facility that is temporarily located at Luvata.

According to Dr. Claudia Follet, director of grants and partnership development for Time Wise Management Systems, the mobile training facilities are part of the Rapid Advanced Manufacturing Placement program (RAMP) which is a two-week mobile job training program designed to help workers sharpen their manufacturing skills.

The program is funded through a \$500,000 grant provided from the governor's discretionary funds in partnership with Three Rivers Planning and Development District, Mississippi Partnership, Delta



Staff photo / Leann McCoy
Bob Capehart (standing) instructs 12 students at Luvata Tuesday.

Workforce Investment Area, and Time Wise Management Systems.

Follet said the program is provided at no cost to employers because of the grant.

See Training program, Page A-5

Training program ...

From Page One

"We work with the employers to see what their needs are and try to match and tailor an employee base to meet their needs," she said. "The class of 12 we have in the program right now for Luvata is the first class to be taught by the RAMP program in Mississippi."

She said the mobile unit is outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment where the two-week program teaches workers the latest in manufacturing technology, improving their skills and heightening their chances for job placement.

Gary Golden, district Work Force Investment Act adult program director for Three Rivers Planning and Development, said the RAMP program is an innovative short-term employment program for long-term employment.

"Many of the goals our employers have are to get the right people in the right place, reduce the turnover rate, and keep the employ-

ees long-term," he said.

Derrick Austin, director of human resources for Luvata, said the opportunity presented reinforces the company's commitment to develop its employees.

"When an organization offers to train your employees, it's an opportunity that is hard to refuse, especially when we depend on a highly-trained workforce. It enables us to reduce the amount of time it takes for an employee to become productive."

Pablo Diaz, executive director of the Grenada Co. Economic Development District, praised the program.

"In these challenging economic times, we salute the governor's office's relentless support for economic development and their foresight in funding a program that makes an immediate, positive difference for both employers and employees," he said.

For more information, call Follet at (321) 266-1059.



D-STAMP helps employer, employees with job training

By Candrese JonesBC Staff Writer *CJ*

Faurecia Automotive Seating in Cleveland has partnered with several entities to provide area citizens with potential jobs.

Area job hunters received the opportunity to take part in the Disadvantaged Short-Term Advanced Manufacturing Program.

D-STAMP is a two week mobile job training program financed through federal stimulus funds designed to help workers sharpen their manufacturing skills and help manufacturers find qualified employees.

"This is the first training in this area," said Claudia Follet, Time Wise Management Systems director of grants and partnership development. "The program is now running in eight states. We actually started about five years ago."

The 300,000 program is being implemented through a partnership involving Delta Workforce Investment Area, South Delta Planning and Development District and Time Wise Management Systems, a lean business consulting company that provides products and consulting services to increase productivity, revenue and economic impact.

D-STAMP is funded by a

grant from the Mississippi Governor's office and is provided at no cost to employers.

"We go out and we help find jobs," said Follet. "The employers will advise us on how many people they're looking at hiring, how much they will pay and what kind of personality they're looking for that will work best for their company."

Follet said the company is seeking to fill 19 jobs at Faurecia.

"We are actually becoming part of their hiring process," she said. "We want to get only the employees that are going to be their stellar employees."

"We want to reduce their turnover rate, which is a huge problem for manufacturers," she said. "The retention rate is 85 percent, which is stunning. It's been a huge problem for employers to hire personnel and then they walk out the door."

"Our other goal is to put people back to work," Follet continued. "Getting people back to work is one of the critical issues we have in this recession. We have available mobile training units that have all they'll need to get the proper training."

"Everything the employer will require, we require," she said. "We provide employers with people that are going to be very dedicated to the job. Once

the training with us is over, they go through the regular interview process of the potential employer. We would have already done the drug screen and background checks though."

The mobile training unit is equipped with the latest industrial technology, offering participants a two-week, self-paced and intensive learning program on cutting-edge equipment. D-STAMP's mobility brings training to areas where jobs and potential employees are located, including an employer's plant site.

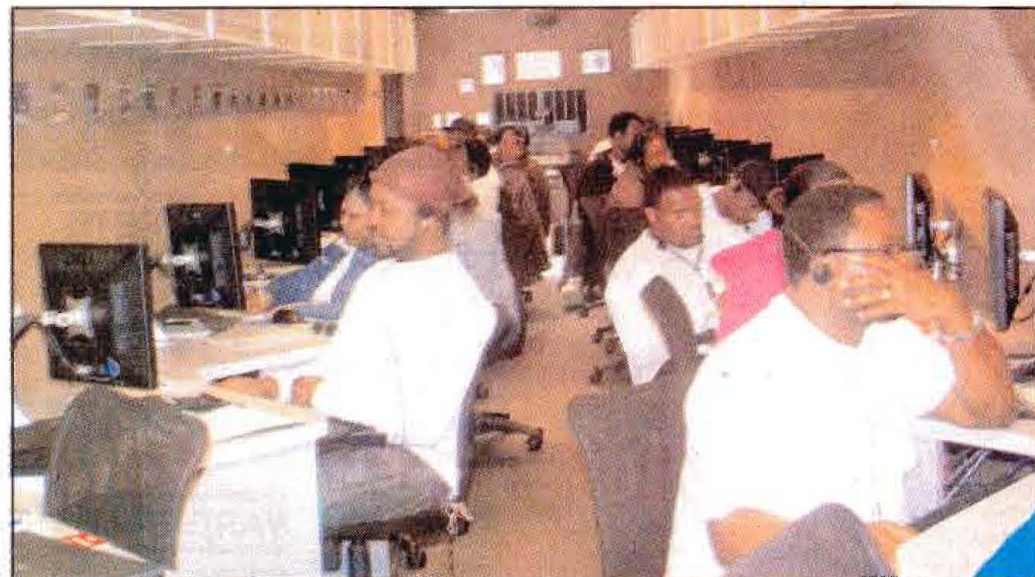
The participants in this area are in their second week and will have a graduation at the WIN Job Center today.

"After the training we go into a mentoring phase," Follet said. "We call the employee and his or her supervisor to check how things are going. They can call us as well."

"At the end of their six months they no longer have just a job they have a career," she said. "Almost all our participants have had job offers."

Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Judson Thigpen expressed the need for the D-STAMP program.

"This is a critical time for Mississippi Delta workers," Thigpen. "It's imperative that we do everything we can to help them find employment."



Bolivar Commercial / Candrese Jones

Time Wise Management Systems train 19 Delta citizens for a potential future at Faurecia. The program is called Disadvantaged Short-Term Advanced Manufacturing Program and is funded by a government grant.

We're very pleased that we can utilize this special training here."

One of the program participants Caroline McWilliams said, "(The program has) been very helpful. It's a whole new concept of doing things related to manufacturing. I think it will really help me in the future — job-wise."

McWilliams is in the process of hopefully moving from her current job to another.

"When they called me and asked if I was still interested in the job, I told them yes," said McWilliams. "Immediately, I had to make a decision as to whether I wanted to keep the job I had or get a better job with better benefits and a chance to progress within the company. I choose this one."

"In the long run, I think it will give me great chance to advance within the company," she said. "Whereas before I was in a job that had no advancements. Now, I have the opportunity to have great benefits. Whereas at my other job, I didn't have any."

"I think that this whole process is good for me," said McWilliams. "I would definitely suggest to other employers that they take on this type of training. I think it gives you a lot of experience that would be necessary."

"Once you get the job and are inside the facility, you will

already be a few steps ahead," she said.

"D-STAMP is about helping entry-level workers who want to go into manufacturing," said Mitzi Woods, South Delta Planning and Development District Workforce director. "Local manufacturers like Faurecia help us determine what they need — what kind of worker they're looking for."

"Then, we know how to help them get the workforce they need," said Woods. "We train them with our specialized mobile equipment on the site of their potential employer. We can't guarantee the participants new jobs but they will be interviewed for the jobs the employer has available."

Faurecia is one of the world's leading automotive suppliers with four key business groups such as automotive seating, emissions control technologies, interior systems and automotive exteriors. It employs 62,000 people in 32 countries at 200 sites and 33 R&D centers.

The Cleveland plant handles seat frame assembly operations for multiple vehicle platforms. Faurecia is one of the largest employers in Cleveland.

"Faurecia depends on a highly-trained group of employees," said Bob Poehler, Faurecia's plant manager in Cleveland. "We operate an advanced manufacturing facility

that is committed to safety and quality."

"Partnering with D-STAMP helps us to train qualified employees so that they can begin work at Faurecia with a stronger skill set and an understanding of the processes that are important to our company and our customers," said Poehler.

One of the persons hoping to receive employment with Faurecia is Karry Hilley, another D-STAMP participant.

"They were accepting application last year in September," said Hilley. "I had applied and they are just now calling us back."

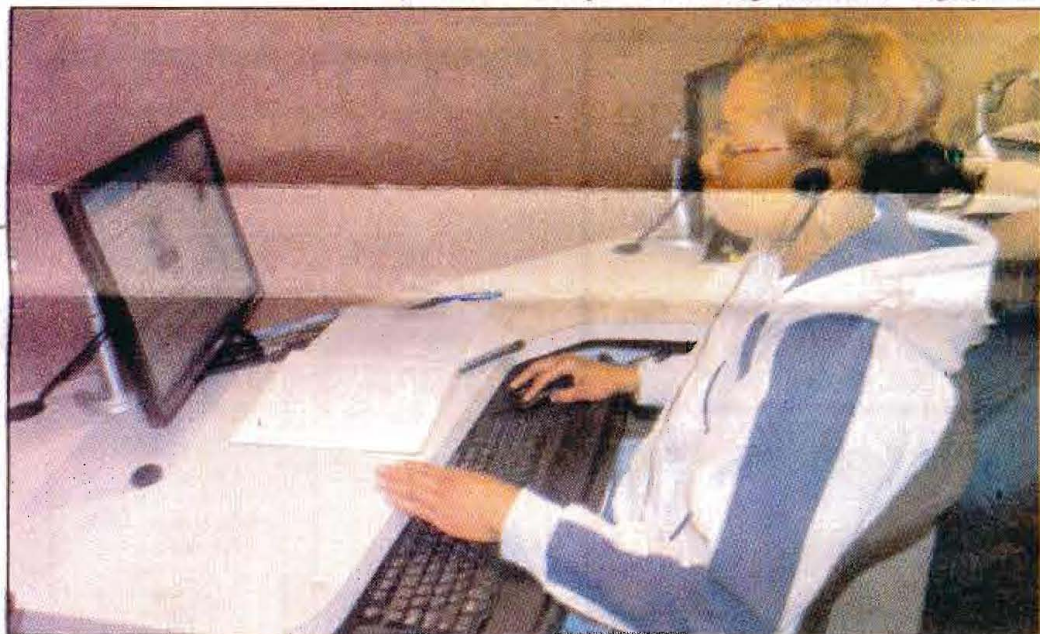
Hilley is currently unemployed and has been unemployed since last September.

"This is a great opportunity for me," he said. "The training process has been very exciting. My mind is coming back."

"The things I had forgotten I've been able to brush up on a lot," said Hilley. "I have also been able to brush up on some things I need to know that I thought I didn't know."

"This job training is a lot different from the experiences and job trainings I've had in the past," he continued. "I'm learning now. I want to go onto the job and learn."

"I'll already know it before I get there," said Hilley. "This is something I would advise other employers to provide."



Bolivar Commercial / Candrese Jones

Caroline McWilliams of Shaw is one of 19 potential employees for Faurecia in Cleveland. McWilliams is receiving an unique kind of training that's new to the Delta.

Mobile Outreach Skills Training Unit Visits Tishomingo County



Funded by the federal stimulus program, the M. O. S. T. unit above is one of several mobile classrooms with a goal of lifting trainees and their families out of poverty by providing the critical training required for careers with long-term growth and higher earning potential.

Governor Barbour has allocated some of the state's stimulus funding toward helping low income families earn more by learning more.

Local officials and industry leaders met at the Tishomingo County Courthouse on April 1 to hear a short presentation on the Mobile Outreach Skills Training (M. O. S. T.) program and to tour one of the mobile units.

The M. O. S. T. program is a fast track, intensive skills training, recruitment, assessment, and placement program which prepares unemployed and underemployed individuals for entry level production jobs. The program is free to industry and individuals. So far, 98% of participants have completed the program and 87% received job offers as a result. There is no cost to participate in the program, but applicants must be interested in working in manufacturing, pass a drug test and background check, and be willing to participate in the two week unpaid training program. Another goal of the MOST program is to address the shortage of semi-skilled and skilled workers for entry level production jobs in industry. Industries have found the program to be useful in that the MOST mobile units can be parked at the factory and train potential job applicants to company standards. The industry can then hire graduates of the program who have already passed drug and background checks, and have basic skills and knowledge about industrial production systems in the particular industry. Again, there is no cost to the individual or the industry.



MOST Program consultant Ted Astolfi explains how the program works to local officials and industry leaders. Programs are customized to meet the needs of each individual and to provide the kinds of job applicants that the industry is seeking.



Many may be aware of the mobile welding unit parked behind the Tishomingo County Courthouse. This outstanding program offered by Northeast Mississippi Community College has trained a number of citizens for jobs in industry. Applications are still being accepted.

Board of Supervisors President James McDowell remarked that “the MOST program is a golden opportunity for employers and employees to advance their competitiveness in a world market and also advance careers and produce a higher standard of living for Tishomingo County residents. Our employers especially do not need to overlook this opportunity. We appreciate Governor Barbour for making the MOST program available and we appreciate Northeast Mississippi Community College President Johnny Allen and Vice President of Workforce Training & Economic Development Nadara Cole for their outstanding efforts to assist the citizens of Tishomingo County prepare to compete in the global economy.” Mr. McDowell reminded citizens that “the mobile welding unit is still taking applicants for welding training.”

More information on the MOST program can be found at www.timewisems.com, or you may call toll free 1-866-629-9442.

Specialized Mobile Job Facility Offers Glimpse into Unique Training Option

Cleveland, Miss. – Today locals were offered a look into a unique mobile training facility temporarily located at Faurecia in Cleveland. The **Disadvantaged Short-Term Advanced Manufacturing Program, or D-STAMP**, is a two-week mobile job training program financed through federal stimulus funds designed to help workers sharpen their manufacturing skills. Housed in a mobile unit outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment, the two-week intensive training program teaches workers the latest in manufacturing technology, improving their skills and heightening their chances for job placement. D-STAMP's mobility enables it to go where the unemployed are, making it not only a unique workforce training program but a timely one as well.

The \$300,000 program is being implemented through a partnership involving Delta Workforce Investment Area, South Delta Planning and Development District and Time Wise Management Systems, a Lean business consulting company that provides products and consulting services to increase productivity, revenue and economic impact.

"D-STAMP is about helping entry-level workers who want to go into manufacturing," commented Mitzi Woods, South Delta Planning and Development District Workforce Director. "Local manufacturers like Faurecia help us determine what they need – what kind of worker they're looking for. Then, we know how to help them get the workforce they need. We train them with our specialized mobile equipment on the site of their potential employer. We can't guarantee the participants new jobs, but they will be interviewed for the jobs the employer has available."

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"Faurecia depends on a highly-trained group of employees," commented Bob Poehler, Faurecia's Plant Manager in Cleveland. "We operate an advanced manufacturing facility that is committed to safety and quality. Partnering with D-STAMP helps us to train qualified employees so that they can begin work at Faurecia with a stronger skill set and an understanding of the processes that are important to our company and our customers."

Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Judson Thigpen expressed the need for the D-STAMP program. "This is a critical time for Mississippi Delta workers. It's imperative that we do everything we can to help them find employment. We're very pleased that we can utilize this special training here."

Time Wise Management Systems, Inc., was founded in 1998 as a Lean business consulting company working with both nonprofit and for-profit entities. Today it provides products and consulting services to increase productivity, revenue and economic impact.

South Delta Planning & Development District serves as the fiscal/administrative agent for The Delta Workforce Investment Area, one of four workforce investment areas in the state of Mississippi designated to carry out the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA). As an

March 30, 2010

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Specialized Mobile Job Training Facility Offers Glimpse into Unique Facility

Grenada, Miss. – Today locals were offered a look into a unique mobile training facility temporarily located at Luvata in Grenada. The **Rapid Advanced Manufacturing Placement program, or RAMP**, is a two-week mobile job training program financed through federal stimulus funds designed to help workers sharpen their manufacturing skills.

Housed in a mobile unit outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment, the two-week intensive training program teaches workers the latest in manufacturing technology, improving their skills and heightening their chances for job placement. RAMP's mobility enables it to go to where the unemployed are, making it not only a unique workforce training program but a timely one as well.

The \$500,000 RAMP program is being implemented through a partnership involving Three Rivers Planning and Development District, the Mississippi Partnership, Delta Workforce Investment Area and Time Wise Management Systems. The program is provided at no cost to employers and is funded by a grant from the Governor's office.

"The Rapid Advanced Manufacturing Placement (RAMP) program is designed to assist entry-level workers interested in working with manufacturing," commented Gary

Golden, Three Rivers Planning and Development District WIA Adult Program Director.

“We will be working with local manufacturers like Luvata to determine their hiring needs, then recruiting dislocated workers, low-income individuals and veterans for an assessment and intensive job skills training program. The training is in a special mobile facility on-site, so trainees have exposure to their potential employers. While jobs are not guaranteed, the trainees are interviewed for the available jobs of that employer.”

“This is a wonderful opportunity that reinforces our commitment to develop our employees,” commented Derrick Austin, Director of Human Resources at Luvata. “When an organization offers to train your employees, it’s an opportunity that is hard to refuse, especially when we depend on a highly-trained workforce. It enables us to reduce the amount of time it takes for an employee to become productive.”

Grenada Economic Development District Executive Director Pablo Diaz also commented on the new program. “Grenada is proud to see Luvata be the poster child for the RAMP program in Mississippi. In these challenging economic times, we salute the Governor’s office’s relentless support for economic development and their foresight in funding a program that makes an immediate, positive difference for both employers and employees. We look forward to seeing more companies take advantage of this unique opportunity.”

Time Wise Management Systems, Inc., was founded in 1998 as a Lean business consulting company working with both nonprofit and for-profit entities. Today it provides products and consulting services to increase productivity, revenue and economic impact.

Seminole Area Residents Seeking Work Benefit from Mobile Job Training Program

SANFORD, FL – After a successful session in Palm Beach County, the Florida Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) state-of-the-art Mobile Outreach Skills Training (M.O.S.T.) unit is in Seminole County hosting a job training and placement program. Eight area residents taking part in the program will have the opportunity to interview for jobs with participating employers such as Envirobrite, an energy-efficient manufacturing lighting company. Participants in the training represent a diverse pool of Florida's unemployed and underemployed including veterans and a single mother. The training is currently taking place on Envirobrite's premises in Sanford.

“Envirobrite is pleased to be working with Florida MEP to take a forward-looking approach to our hiring. Through their M.O.S.T. program, we're not simply looking for people to hire, we're actually beginning the training process while we're still in the hiring phase,” said Chuck Hansbrough, Sales and Marketing Manager for Envirobrite, the lighting division of Energy Planning Associates. “At Envirobrite, we take immense pride in our workmanship and the quality of our products. We have a great level of comfort that Florida MEP and the M.O.S.T. program will help us find the right team members – people who are committed to these same standards.”

The Florida MEP M.O.S.T. is a pioneering traveling unit equipped with state-of-the-art equipment. Participants attend a concentrated, two-week training program at which they can improve upon or obtain new manufacturing skills. The program consists of theory, practical skills, hands-on curriculum including computer-based 3-D simulations and self-paced training modules. Following the successful completion of the program, trainees receive opportunities to interview with participating employers ready to hire qualified applicants.

“Florida MEP offers options and resources for manufacturing companies seeking entry-level workers,” said Florida MEP Board Chair Gene Lussier. “We partner with participating companies from the beginning to understand their needs and find qualified candidates for our training sessions. We can even tailor our trainings specifically to the companies we're working with. For the trainees, this program offers more than skill building. It's a bridge to employment with a guarantee of a job interview and continued support through on-the-job training if they're hired. Florida MEP's M.O.S.T. program is a win-win for the employers and candidates who participate.”

The transportable M.O.S.T. unit provides services to targeted areas of Florida where jobs and prospective employees are located. It can be positioned at an employer's facility or site convenient for trainees offering flexibility for both. The M.O.S.T. program can also be customized to suit the needs of participating employers thereby shortening the length of time before a trainee can become a productive employee.

“In speaking with many manufacturers over the years, I would often hear them say that it was difficult to find skilled employees to fulfill their needs. We even talked to the community

college at one point to see if they'd consider offering a basic manufacturing skills course. This program fills a long overdue need," said Tracy Turk, Senior Director of Business Development the Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission.

Candidates for the Seminole Training were selected by Florida MEP in conjunction with Pathways to Home, a collaborative program consisting of 16 non-profit organizations, and Manpower Inc., a worldwide company with locations throughout Florida that screen, recruit and reach out to the unemployed. Participants are required to pass a basic education test and drug screening to qualify for the program. A representative from M.O.S.T. interviews each candidate prior to selection for involvement in the program.

"With so many unemployed Floridians, the work Pathways to Home is doing right now in Seminole County has never been more important," said Debbra Groseclose, Executive Director of Pathways to Home. "We're proud to partner with Florida MEP and enhance our efforts to meet the needs of those who want to find work."

The program is funded in part by a U.S. Department of Labor grant of \$856,000. For more information on Florida MEP or the M.O.S.T. unit, visit www.floridamep.org or www.timewisemost.com/.



On board

Shown boarding the bus is Vance Hays of Standard Industrial Corporation. On board learning about the training stations from consultants Ted Astolfi (second from left) and Bojan Cubela (far right) are from left: Mike Vonallmen of CPU; Ron Hudson of the Chamber; Jimmy Walker, Jr. of SaftCart; and Vance Hays (not pictured).

Chamber receives mobile training

Special to the CPR

The Clarksdale/Coahoma County Chamber of Commerce & Industrial Foundation recently gathered the local Manufacturers/Major Employers Association together to hear about beneficial programs for their companies.

Company officials learned about formation of a Wellness Council in Coahoma County and the availability of grant monies to help initiate a program.

They also heard details on the Mississippi Steps Program from Mississippi Department of Employment Security Branch Director Florine Miller and how it can help with new hires.

The group also heard from representatives of the Delta Workforce Investment Act and consultants from Time Wise Management Systems.

During the training, company officials got the opportunity to tour a Short-Term Advanced Manufacturing Program state-of-the-art Mobile Training Unit.

It is a fast-track, intensive skills training, recruitment, assessment, and placement program to help train potential employees for their facilities at their convenience and at no cost to them.

Classes are being formed in Clarksdale and one local manufacturer is already committed to participate.

Any other manufacturer interested in learning more about this mobile training unit or taking part in the first class should contact Ron Hudson or Tana Vassel of the Chamber at 627-7337.



Get on the bus

Shown boarding the mobile training bus is Vance Hays of Standard Industrial Corporation.

Time Wise MEP Centers Rank Tops in Latest NIST/MEP Survey Response Rate

Celebration, Florida: In the latest announcement of performance measures by the nationwide network of Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) centers, the four state MEP programs managed by [Time Wise Management Systems](#) ranked among the top performing programs. The four state programs – **Florida, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine** – all achieved 100 percent client reporting scores for the fourth quarter 2009.

Nationwide, only eight of 60 state and territorial programs achieved a score of 100 percent in 2009 Q4. In addition to the four Time Wise-managed MEP centers, Alaska, Kentucky, Vermont and Puerto Rico MEPs also achieved 100 percent client reporting. The nationwide average reporting rate was 78.7 percent.

Client surveys constitute the core of a rigorous independent evaluation process that federal law requires for all MEP programs. Overseen by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the MEP evaluation process uses an independent third party to collect quarterly data from MEP center clients. These quarterly surveys measure the impact of services provided by MEP centers to manufacturers in their state. The NIST-MEP uses this performance data as a core component in reviewing center performance. The results also provide the centers with a tool to measure their effectiveness and benchmark their performance against other centers nationwide.

"The final quarterly client reporting rates for 2009 reflect our centers' commitment to client service," said Rod Rodrigue, president and CEO of Time Wise Management Systems. "We expect all Time Wise-managed MEP centers to achieve 100 percent reporting status. Our MEP project managers develop close collaborative relations with their manufacturing clients and deliver services that impact their bottom line. I'm very proud that Time Wise-managed centers represent half of the nation's top-reporting states."

The client Q4 surveys, which were conducted by an independent third-party, began on January 17 and were completed on February 12, 2010.

The regular achievement of 100 percent client reporting rates serves as a quality control measure and helps ensure the accuracy of economic impacts resulting from MEP services in the four states. In Time Wise-managed MEP centers impact results are never extrapolated and no client is ever removed from the survey.

"Our states' congressional delegations have shown a remarkable appreciation of the MEP program over the years and understand the value of the services we provide to manufacturers. One of the reasons for that sustained level of support has been the hard numbers that we can produce about impacts and results. Through client surveys, we can demonstrate the impact that MEP services have had in terms of increased manufacturing sales, improved worker skills, enhanced workforce productivity, increased production efficiency and new product development," Rodrigue stated.

"The current economic downturn has hit small manufacturers particularly hard. In response, we've developed two new initiatives to help manufacturers cope with these challenging conditions. The first was our MEP [Innovation Initiative](#) that helps clients identify new growth opportunities and provides them with tools for developing new products in response to changing market demands. That program has had good success in teaching small manufacturers how to become innovative," explained Rodrigue.

“The second initiative we launched in 2009 focuses on cutting energy costs and reducing the environmental impact of manufacturing processes. It was developed as a pilot project of the MEP programs in Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The [Lean Energy and Environment](#) program pioneers a new approach to energy efficiency by integrating energy and environmental metrics into the lean manufacturing methodologies traditionally employed MEPs. Unlike conventional energy audits, the Lean Energy and Environment program identifies manufacturing process inefficiencies that, when improved, can reduce or eliminate the need for energy in the first place,” Rodrigue stated.

The Lean Energy and Environment pilot program, Rodrigue noted, achieved a 10:1 return on investment. For a modest \$140,000 investment in direct and program management costs (\$67,000 coming from the EPA and \$73,000 in associated match dollars), the project produced a total of \$1.4 million in expected energy savings and operational efficiencies for the participating firms.

That kind of creative program development and ROI has help ensure that TimeWise-managed centers regularly perform among the best in the country.

NIST-MEP uses five measures to evaluate a center’s performance:

- 1) **Bottom-line client impact ratio**, which provides a measure of the new and retained resources available to manufacturing firms as a result of MEP delivered services;
- 2) **Impacted clients per million federal dollars**, which provides a measure of a center’s ability to generate client impacts;
- 3) **Investment leverage ratio**, which measures the sum of new investments reported by MEP center clients compared to the federal government’s investment in the MEP center;
- 4) **Percent quantified impact**, which provides a measure of the breadth of a center’s impacts, as well as a good overall measure of customer satisfaction;
- 5) **Clients served per million federal dollars**, which provides a measure of a center’s market penetration.

For Q3 2009, which is the latest data currently available for the five evaluation metrics, all four of the TimeWise-managed MEP centers received the maximum points awarded by NIST-MEP for each of the five measurements.

For additional information on the NIST/MEP evaluation process, see:

[Manufacturing Extension Partnership: Demonstrating Innovative Strategies in Performance Metrics.](#)

Presentation by Ken Voytek, chief economist, NIST/MEP, and Carroll Thomas, Partnership Catalyst, November 2008.

[MEP System and Center Performance:](#) Presentation to the MEP Advisory Board, October 2008 by Ken Voytek, chief economist, NIST/MEP. (pdf)

[NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership Client Impact Survey:](#) Presentation by Ken Voytek, chief economist, NIST/MEP, November 2007.

For Immediate Release



Contact:

Pablo Diaz
Executive Director
Grenada County Economic Development District
info@grenadameansbusiness.com

New Training Program available for area manufacturers

What has four wheels, state- of- the-art equipment, and the ability to train your employees right at your doorstep?

Grenada, Miss. (Mar. 09, 2010) – The Grenada County Economic Development District announced today that a new training program called M.O.S.T (Mobile Outreach Skills Training) is available for Grenada manufacturers. The program offers a Mobile Training Unit where state-of-the-art training in manufacturing is provided on company grounds at the time requested by individual companies.

The training consists of practical skills, theory and hands-on curriculum that utilize both computer-based 3-D simulations and hands-on, self-paced training modules. After a two-week intensive training session, participating employers have the opportunity to interview and hire trainees. Trainees who are hired will receive customized work-based training from Time Wise staff. The programs' rigorous pre-screening and testing, combined with the work-based training, has guaranteed for years an 85 percent retention rate after six months of the initial hire.

The program is provided at no cost to employers and is funded by a grant from the Governor's office to the Mississippi Partnership Workforce Investment Area. Companies using the program may also qualify for the Mississippi STEPS (subsidized transitional employment program & services) and OJT (on the job training) funding.

Existing companies are invited to take a tour of the mobile training unit at the office of the Economic Development District on Wednesday, March 31st from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. The EDD office is located at 81 S. Church Street in downtown Grenada.

For more information on the M.O.S.T program, call Pablo Diaz at 662-229-9502 or e-mail the EDD at info@grenadameansbusiness.com. For detailed information about Time Wise Management Systems, visit www.timewisems.com.

The Grenada County Economic Development District (the EDD) is the official economic development entity for Grenada County and an MDA partner. Pablo Diaz is Executive Director of the Grenada County Economic Development District.

- ### -

Mobile Job Training Program Connects Area Companies With Out-of-Work Residents

RIVIERA BEACH, Fla. – Following a successful session held in October 2009, the Florida Manufacturing Extension Partnership's state-of-the-art Mobile Outreach Skills Training (M.O.S.T.) unit has returned to Palm Beach County to host another job training and placement program. Currently taking place on the premises of ITW VersaChem Corporation in Riviera Beach, the M.O.S.T. program is connecting eight area residents looking for work with local companies, such as Sancilio & Company, Inc., in search of qualified entry-level job candidates.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our company to strengthen and augment our team," said Alex Sancilio, Chairperson and Principal of Sancilio & Company, Inc. "When an organization steps up and says 'we'll help train your workforce,' how can you not take advantage of that? As a specialty pharmaceutical and development company, we depend on a highly-trained workforce. Rather than placing an ad in the classifieds and hoping for the best, with the M.O.S.T. program we know these graduates will have received training on the types of skills we need them to have."

Outfitted with cutting-edge equipment, the Florida Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) M.O.S.T. traveling unit offers participants an opportunity to upgrade or learn new manufacturing skills through an intense, two-week training program. The program consists of practical skills, theory and hands-on curriculum including computer-based 3-D simulations and hands-on, self-paced training modules. Participants not only receive job training, but also the promise of a job interview with employers ready to hire qualified applicants.

"By providing quick-start job training for small and mid-sized manufacturers in need of entry-level workers, Florida MEP can help our state's manufacturers maintain a competitive edge in this current economic climate that has forced many companies to limit their self investment," said Florida MEP Board Chair Gene Lussier. "After completing the M.O.S.T. program, trainees are walking away with an opportunity they didn't have before and participating companies have an existing pool of skilled workers to interview instead starting the hiring and training process from scratch on their own."

With the unique advantage of mobility, the M.O.S.T. program is able to take its services to the parts of the state where jobs and potential employees are located. The unit can be situated at an employer's facility or a location convenient for trainees offering flexibility for both. The M.O.S.T. program can also be customized to suit the needs of participating employers thereby shortening the length of time before a trainee can become a productive employee.

"We are pleased to join with Florida MEP to support this latest training session in Palm Beach County. Through this partnership, we are able to help locally-based businesses by lowering the cost of hiring new employees, and bring critical job training services directly to the people in our area who need them," said Kathryn Schmidt, President and CEO of Workforce Alliance, Inc. of Palm Beach County.

Candidates for the current Palm Beach County M.O.S.T. program were selected by Florida MEP and the Workforce Alliance, Inc. of Palm Beach County, a private, non-profit organization funded by state and federal dollars which connects businesses with jobseekers. To be eligible for the program, each M.O.S.T. participant must pass a basic education test and drug screening. Prior to selection for participation in the program, each candidate is interviewed by a M.O.S.T. representative.

The program is funded in part by a U.S. Department of Labor grant of \$856,000 and the Workforce Alliance, Inc. of Palm Beach County. For more information on Florida MEP or the M.O.S.T. unit, visit www.floridamep.org or <http://www.timewisemost.com/>.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday Dec. 3, 2009

Contact:

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Time Wise Management System Showcases Training Program at White House Jobs Summit

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Time Wise Management System (TWMS) today had an opportunity to showcase one of its most successful job training initiatives at President Barack Obama's White House Forum on Jobs and Economic Growth. TWMS President/CEO Rod Rodrigue was invited to attend the high-profile White House event. Rodrigue used the opportunity to present the Mobile Outreach Skills Training (M.O.S.T.) program, which trains unemployed workers for existing manufacturing jobs using a state-of-the-art mobile training unit.

Today's White House jobs summit is intended to provide an opportunity for the President and his team to hear from some of the nation's leading CEOs, small business owners, labor leaders, thinkers and nonprofits about ideas for continuing to grow the economy and put Americans back to work. Rodrigue was one of approximately 130 individuals invited to participate in the summit.

"I am deeply honored to be able to attend today's White House jobs summit. The President's economic team is looking for strategies to increase employment and spur the nation's economic recovery. We have a terrific story to tell. Time Wise has developed an innovative program for training unemployed workers for careers in manufacturing and connecting those workers with companies looking to hire people for hard-to-fill positions. I'm delighted that the White House recognized our efforts and gave us an opportunity to discuss our mobile training program," Rodrigue said.

The M.O.S.T. program is a fast-track training initiative that utilizes a mobile classroom. Outfitted with cutting-edge computer-numeric controlled (CNC) equipment, the mobile unit delivers an intensive skills training program that consists of hands-on curricula utilizing computer-based 3-D simulations and training modules. Participants who successfully complete the program not only gain job training, but receive interviews with employers ready to hire qualified applicants. TWMS's effort to identify employers with job openings and connect those employers with the trainees differentiates the program from many other training programs and contributes to the M.O.S.T. program's high level of successful job placements.

Two additional features of the program also contribute to its success. First, the M.O.S.T. program trains workers for entry-level jobs that have a career ladder, higher earning potential and opportunities for advancement. Second, staff continues to work with employers months after the end of the training program to ensure that trainees have mastered the required skills. This follow-on feature of the program reflects the mission of training employees so that their improved skills drive company growth.

“One of the unique features of the M.O.S.T. program is the opportunity it creates for trainees to embark on a career in manufacturing. The program qualifies trainees for entry-level manufacturing jobs, but these entry level positions are not dead-end jobs. In many other parts of the country there is a real shortage of skilled manufacturing workers. We identify manufacturers with job openings before the training begins, so that individuals who complete the training program have a good chance of successfully competing for these jobs. We believe in giving individuals more than job skills; we want to train them for a career in the high-tech future of American manufacturing,” Rodrigue stated.

In conjunction with the Jobs Summit, Senator Susan Collins (ME) invited the MEP mobile training to travel to Washington, D.C., and obtained permission for it to set up on Capitol Hill so that members of Congress and congressional aides could tour the unit. MEP trainers and staff spent yesterday giving guided tours to congressional visitors, including Congresswoman Chellie Pingree (ME), explaining how the high-tech mobile classroom operates and trains workers.

“With a stubbornly high unemployment rate, we must be creative in developing innovative programs to ensure displaced Mainers are trained and able to reenter the labor force. The M.O.S.T. program accomplishes this by delivering the full continuum of services needed for long-term success – recruitment, assessment, training and job placement,” Rodrigue explained. “This program is a win-win situation for manufacturers and workers. If initiated nationwide, the program could have an even more substantial impact.”

The Time Wise M.O.S.T. program was initially launched in New England with support from the U.S. Department of Labor. For more information on the M.O.S.T. program, visit www.timewisemost.com.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 30, 2009

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Maine State Chamber of Commerce Presents 2009 Presidential Award to Rod Rodrigue

Time Wise President Recognized for Entrepreneurial Leadership

South Portland, Maine: Before a packed audience at its annual meeting and awards dinner, the [Maine State Chamber of Commerce](#) yesterday presented its 2009 Presidential Award to Rod Rodrigue, president of [Time Wise Management Systems](#). Saluting his "lifetime of entrepreneurship" and contribution to the Maine economy, the Maine State Chamber praised Rodrigue for his positive impact on manufacturing in Maine and other states.

"Ten years ago Rod took over an underperforming agency known as Maine MEP, about to close its doors. Today that agency is a national leader, assisting manufacturers with services and access to resources that improve productivity, expand capacity and enhance global competitiveness," said Maine State Chamber of Commerce President Dana Connors.

After citing his accomplishments in transforming the [Maine MEP](#), Connors noted that Rodrigue was called upon to help transform MEP programs in other states, including [New Hampshire](#), [Massachusetts](#), and [Florida](#). His entrepreneurial spirit subsequently led Rodrigue to found [Time Wise Management Services](#), a Lean business consulting company that provides innovative Lean, Lean Sigma and Six Sigma solutions that improve performance and deploys tailored training that helps its customers to create an organizational culture of continuous and sustainable improvement.

"Rod's success that began here in Maine has taken him to the national stage as well, being asked repeatedly by other states to help with their challenges and to take over their operations, managing as many as eight states at one point," Connors said.

In presenting the award, the Maine Chamber President spoke of a second expression of Rodrigue's entrepreneurial spirit unrelated to his manufacturing initiatives.

"While this award could reflect a lifetime of entrepreneurial spirit by Rod, it attempts to recognize two, quite unrelated, yet very significant success stories occurring right here in our state," Connors said. "To me, the greatest expression of Rod's entrepreneurship has been what he and his wife Marion established just four years ago in Morrill, Maine. It's called [Ironwood Therapeutic Boarding School](#). [Ironwood](#) is located on 500 acres of countryside on the edge of Frye Mountain. It's a therapeutic boarding school committed to helping families in crisis with troubled teens."

[Ironwood Therapeutic Boarding School](#) offers therapeutic, clinical and educational services helping teens to adopt proactive behaviors necessary to lead a productive life as a contributing family member and community citizen.

CASTINE, ME - Maine Maritime Academy will honor its best and brightest at a ceremony to be held on the college campus next week. The college will formally recognize alumni accomplishment, student academic success, and outstanding faculty at its annual Celebration of Achievement on Thursday, Nov. 6. In total, 18 individuals associated with the college will be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments. According to MMA President Leonard Tyler, several recognition ceremonies are held jointly each year to foster mutual respect, admiration, and inspiration among all honorees. The ceremonies include the college's Wall of Honor induction, Scheel Scholars and ABS Scholars presentations, and an Excellence in Teaching award. They highlight the interrelationship of alumni professional and civic success, student curiosity and scholarship, and inspired teaching and academic commitment, respectively.

Initiated in 1997, the college's Wall of Honor was created to recognize alumni, who, through achievements in professional and civic life, have brought honor to themselves and to Maine Maritime Academy. The Wall was established not only to pay tribute to their achievements, but also to allow their success to serve as inspiration to current students and their fellow alumni to strive for personal excellence. The 2008 inductee will join 53 distinguished alumni honorees with a framed photograph and biographical sketch permanently displayed in the college's Wall of Honor located in the Kresge Room of the Harold Alfond Student Center. Inductees are selected from nominations made at large by alumni and the public. Selection criteria prescribes that candidates be a graduate of Maine Maritime Academy and own, be a president, chief executive officer, or chair of the board of directors of a company; or have been elected to the office of mayor, governor, U.S. House of Representatives or Senate; or have achieved the rank of flag officer in a branch of the military; or have achieved significant prominence or lifetime achievement in a chosen field. Advanced education, professional awards and honors, community service, and voluntary service to Maine Maritime Academy are also considered for selection. The annual selection process is carried out by a committee comprised of members of the Wall of Honor.

This year's Wall of Honor induction will recognize the career accomplishments of Rodney P. Rodrigue, MMA Class of 1967, president and CEO, Time Wise Management Systems, Inc. Time Wise Management Systems is a nationwide training and business advisory firm that helps organizations achieve strategic process improvements, sustain their performance gains, and drive continual improvement across their supply chains.

Rodrigue holds an M.B.A. degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University and is a respected entrepreneur and business professional. A founder of the U.S. Small Manufacturing Coalition, he currently serves as the president of the Florida and Maine divisions of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, a national network with hundreds of specialists who understand the needs of manufacturers and assist them with services and access to public and private resources that enhance growth, improve productivity, expand capacity, and enhance global competitiveness.

His diverse business experience includes past executive leadership posts with the Belfast & Moosehead Lake Railroad; Consolidated Auto Recyclers, Inc.; International Power Chemicals; and the Mexico-based firm of Productos Rolmex S.S. de C.V. He is currently the owner and chairman of Ironwood - Residential Treatment Center for Teens.

He is a past recipient of the Maine International Trade Center's "Innovator of the Year Award" and the Maine State Chamber of Commerce's "President's Award."



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Facility offers the M.O.S.T.

Huckabee, Posey talk politics, tour mobile training RV

BY JIM WAYMER • FLORIDA TODAY • OCTOBER 14, 2008

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ROCKLEDGE -- Mike Huckabee said federal dollars for job retraining, such as the program he learned about here Monday, make much more sense than bailing out Wall Street financiers.



"I think it's a fantastic model of a way to bring employment to people," Huckabee said, in discussing the Mobile Outreach Skills Training program.

The former presidential hopeful had just stepped off a recreational vehicle, converted into a mobile classroom for manufacturing workers.

Huckabee, along with State Sen. Bill Posey, Republican candidate for the 15th Congressional District seat, got a tour of the vehicle Monday, parked at Mainstream Engineering Corp. in Rockledge.

Huckabee was in Brevard County on Monday stumping for several Republican candidates,

including Thad Altman, congressional candidate for District 24.

Huckabee said the Fair Tax, which would replace all federal income taxes with a single national retail sales tax, would help preserve American manufacturing jobs.

"That singly would change the whole game," Huckabee said.

The Mobile Outreach Skills Training program trains and places low-skilled workers in entry-level manufacturing jobs after an intense two-week course in basic manufacturing skills. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor and local work-force boards.

The program could help bridge the employment gap between the 2010 sunset of the space shuttle program and the next generation of spacecraft, said Claudia Follet, director of grants and partnership development with Time Wise Management Systems, which runs the program.

"They need a career path," Follet said. "After two weeks, we get them a job."

Graduates of the program start at an average of \$31,200 a year, with health benefits, according to Time Wise.

"The technicians at the Space Center are exactly what we need," said Robert Scaringe, president and founder of Mainstream Engineering, which hosted Monday's event. "We have a tremendous number of openings."

Mainstream Engineering makes "high-speed, high-efficiency compressors and turbines for air, steam, refrigeration and other chemical process applications," according to its Web site. It also makes thermal control systems and other components for spacecraft.



Arkansas governor and former presidential candidate Mike Huckabee, right, and state Sen. Bill Posey toured the Time Wise Mobile Outreach Skills Training unit Monday morning in Rockledge. (Tim Shortt, FLORIDA TODAY)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 2008

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**Maine MEP Helps Local General Dynamics Facility with Talent Recruitment
M.O.S.T® program provides training in much-needed manufacturing sector**

SACO, ME - The Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) has assisted General Dynamics Armament and Technical Products (GDATP) local facility in recruiting entry-level machine operators. The training from the Mobile Outreach Skills Training (M.O.S.T.) program allowed General Dynamics to find potential employees with the skills necessary to work in a very technical environment.

“We find often times the pool of applicants does not meet our criteria and we often have to compete with other manufacturers for employees,” said Chuck Bates, staff development manager at the General Dynamics Armament and Technical Products site in Saco. The facility is the company’s core production facility for multi-barreled aircraft and crew-served weapons systems.

Under the M.O.S.T. program, instructors from Maine MEP brought a mobile classroom and workshop to the facility to train potential employees in basic shop skills as well as in milling and turning. After the training, General Dynamics interviewed and ultimately hired from the pool of graduates who took this comprehensive, two-week course.

“There is a shortage in the number of people who can do this kind of work,” said Bob Doiron, project manager for Maine MEP. “We brought a mobile training facility to General Dynamics to teach entry-level employees the basic skills necessary to ensure high quality products and enhance employee retention.”

Candidates for the M.O.S.T. workforce training were selected with the help of the Saco Career Center. Most were displaced workers who had little previous experience in machining. Among those selected to receive training included a former family business owner, a social worker, a painter, and a recent military veteran.

-

The training was completed in two phases. Phase 1, conducted by the Maine MEP, consisted of 80 hours of classroom and computer-based training addressing basic machine shop skills. Phase 2, initiated after hire, was a 90 day on-the-job training program for machine operators managed by GDATP.

“We were very satisfied with the quality of the students that completed the M.O.S.T workforce training program,” said Bates. “I would highly recommend Maine MEP to other manufacturers based on their ability to deliver a quality program.”


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 2008

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**L.S. STARRETT COMPANY: MASSMEP'S M.O.S.T. SUCCESSFUL STAR
Toolmaker Hires 44 Workers as a Result of MassMEP's M.O.S.T. Program**

ALTHOL, MA - The L.S. Starrett Company, a manufacturer of more than 5,000 variations of precision tools, gages, measuring instruments and saw blades, has been a leader in the precision tools industry for almost 130 years. Local small machine shops and large Fortune 500 companies alike turn to Starrett for their fine instruments and hand measuring tools. The company employs about 2,000 people worldwide.

With the shortage of skilled manufacturing workers across the country, Starrett was looking for ways to train and keep good employees in their shop. In order to keep up with the demand for their products and hire workers quickly, the manufacturer turned to the Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MassMEP) and their M.O.S.T. program.

"M.O.S.T. stands for Mobile Outreach Skills Training. Using our mobile training unit, or MTU, we bring instruction straight to the company's doorstep. Would-be workers are schooled in shop math, blueprinting, metrology and other hands-on work. In this case, we worked with Starrett to provide five separate two-week training sessions," said Leslie Parady, project manager of MassMEP.

v There are two phases to the M.O.S.T. program. In Phase One, trainees participate in an intensive, two week, 80-hour basic operator skills training process in the MTU. In Phase Two, trainees participate in a 40 day on-the-job training process, which then results in full-time employment at the company. Using M.O.S.T., 44 new workers were able to fill vacant machine operator positions and a number of computer numerical-control (CNC) operator positions at Starrett.

"The first three times we did our training, we did use the MTU, but that ultimately morphed into a training unit on-site at the company, equipped with computers for the trainees to use," added Parady. "They still get the same level of training, but have established the on-site training facility so this can be an ongoing event."

"We proudly boast that we are the last remaining full line precision tool company to be manufacturing our products within the U.S., and we want it to stay that way," said Joel Shaughnessy, personnel director at Starrett. "By using the MassMEP's M.O.S.T. program, we are able to equip our new workers with the skills needed to do the job. We have been able to rotate them through different departments when needed as well. We are extremely pleased with the workers we have hired as a result of M.O.S.T. and additionally plan to utilize MassMEP's help in the future."

MEDIA ADVISORY

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MAINE MEP CELEBRATES M.O.S.T. TRAINING GRADUATION AT GENERAL DYNAMICS

*Trainees Placed in Skilled Manufacturing Positions at the Company Following
Graduation on Friday, October 12*

Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Maine MEP), in conjunction with the Saco CareerCenter, announces the recent graduates of the M.O.S.T. (Machine Operator Skills Training) program from General Dynamics Armament and Technical Products' Saco Operations, a leading manufacturer and provider of aircraft gun systems, crew-served weapon systems and gun barrels to the men and women of our armed forces in Iraq.

M.O.S.T. is a U.S. Department of Labor pilot program launched in the six New England states. Maine MEP facilitated the two-week long training, with the primary goal of addressing the critical need of local manufacturers to fill a rapidly increasing number of vacant computerized numerical-control (CNC) machine operator positions. M.O.S.T. uses a mobile training unit, equipped with computer terminals and interactive machines, at each company. After completion of the initial two-week training, trainees are interviewed by General Dynamics and enter a 60-day on-the-job training program.

Commissioner of the Maine Department of Labor, Laura Fortman, will be a featured guest at the graduation. Fortman has been instrumental in addressing the shortage of skilled workers in Maine through workforce policies that are helping more adult workers access education and training.

Eleven trainees will graduate from the M.O.S.T. program at General Dynamics on Friday, October 12.

WHO: M.O.S.T. Program Graduates
Laura Fortman, Commissioner, Maine Department of Labor
Garret Oswald, Director, Maine Jobs Council
Richard Fifield, Director, Saco CareerCenter
Elaine Palmitessa, Business Assistance Representative, Saco CareerCenter
Gary LaPerriere, Director of Operations, GDATP Saco
Jerry Devlin, Sr. Human Resources Manager, GDATP Saco
William Sanborn, Manager of Manufacturing Operations, GDATP Saco
Charles Bates, Manager of Staff Development, GDATP Saco
Janet Basile, Sr. Human Resources Specialist
Representative from the Department of Economic and Community
Development

Muriel Mosher, Vice President for Government Relations, Maine MEP
Bob Doiron, Maine MEP, Maine Innovation Program Project Manager,
Maine MEP

WHAT: Graduation from M.O.S.T. program

WHEN: Friday, October 12
11:15 a.m.
Team Room

WHERE: General Dynamics
291 North Street
Saco, Maine

Front row left to right: Paul Mooney, Kent Nguyen, Brenda Prue, David Roy
Back row left to right: Kevin Worden, Evan Amadon, Todd Piepezyk, Don Vaznis, Mark
Roy, Ryan McGrath, Les Kaplan





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 2007

For more information please contact:
Muriel Mosher
Tel: 207-623-0680

M.O.S.T. TRAINING PAYS OFF FOR PALMER
**MassMEP Brings Mobile Skills Training Program to Malden Manufacturer, Fills
Highly Skilled Job Openings**

MALDEN, MA - Palmer Manufacturing, headquartered in Malden, is a company that is growing rapidly and is one of the leading suppliers in the aerospace/aircraft engine components field. Although already one of the top employers in Malden, the company was looking for skilled machine operators to support an expansion in their business. As many manufacturing companies throughout the country already know, it can be difficult finding workers with the necessary skills and knowledge to jump right into an operation.

“We wanted to hire for positions in several areas, but weren’t sure where to start in terms of recruitment,” said Pete Cirak, Senior Quality Engineer at Palmer. “I had heard about the M.O.S.T. (Machine Operators Skills Training) program, where a mobile training unit would come to us and help equip new workers with necessary job skills. So I contacted Ted Bauer from the Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MassMEP). I visited a training already taking place in Rhode Island, and immediately set up a M.O.S.T training for our company.”

Funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, six New England divisions of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, including MassMEP, administer the M.O.S.T. program. The program is free, and uses a mobile training unit to train nontraditional and out-of-work individuals, helping local manufacturers fill vacant job positions. The training program is conducted in two phases. In Phase One, trainees participate in an intensive 80-hour basic operator skills training process, which is followed by Phase Two, a 60 day on-the-job training process.

“Palmer hired five candidates from the Phase One training and they all successfully completed.

the on-the-job training,” said Ted Bauer, M.O.S.T. Machining Program Coordinator for the six New England States. “What M.O.S.T. does is provides both parties, the employer and potential employees, with an invaluable service. The employer gets to review a candidate’s scores upon completion of the Phase One training and get a sense of an employee’s potential. The trainees are provided with some critical foundation skills making them more comfortable starting out on the shop floor and minimizing potential damage to expensive equipment. Additionally, the trainees, many of whom have little manufacturing experience, get a flavor for what the job will be like.”

“We are very happy the MassMEP was able to help us find and train these workers who are now integral to our production process,” adds Cirak. “We would certainly use the MassMEP again if we plan on hiring in the future.”


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 2007

For more information please contact:

Muriel Mosher

Tel: 207-623-0680

KEENE PLAYS HOST FOR M.O.S.T.**NH MEP, Keene Office of Employment Security and Local Companies Team Up
Again to Train and Hire New Hampshire**

KEENE, NH - There is a critical need for qualified machine operators in the manufacturing industry, especially at shops in New Hampshire and New England. Due to the limited number of people entering training programs, manufacturers are having difficulty finding workers with the necessary skills and knowledge. But the New Hampshire Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NH MEP) and the Keene Office of Employment Security are helping to change that.

The Machine Operator Skills Training Program (M.O.S.T.) is a free regional program that brings state of the art technology to rural areas using a mobile training unit. The 80-hour hands-on program is designed to equip workers with the skills necessary to secure positions as machine operators in companies like the Tidland Corporation in Keene, New Hampshire Industries in Lebanon and Lake Machine in Claremont. The six New England divisions of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership run the M.O.S.T. program, which is funded by a grant from the Department of Labor.

The mobile training unit, equipped with computer terminals and interactive machines, will arrive on the property of Tidland Corporation on Monday, July 23rd and stay for two weeks through Friday, August 3rd. This is the second program of this kind for Tidland in the past three months.

“We were very pleased with the candidates trained in the first round in May at the Keene Office of Employment Security that we wanted to sponsor a second group at Tidland,” said Sharon Mills at Tidland Corporation. “We will be interviewing for ten machine operators. In just two weeks, the M.O.S.T. program will give these individuals the training they need to prepare them for work here.” With a plant in Keene, Tidland is an international company that manufactures a range of equipment for slitting and winding paper, plastic film, metal foils, and non-woven materials.

“Skilled computer numerically-controlled (CNC) machine operators are in high demand at manufacturing facilities in New Hampshire,” said Joel Slutsky, manager of the Keene Employment Security Office. “This program has been so successful because NH MEP is bringing the training facility to the company and the region that needs these workers most, eliminating the need for travel, which is a major benefit for the potential workers and the companies involved.”

Lake Machine, a shop that provides instrument, medical, sensor, aerospace, electronic and defense industries with quality parts and assemblies and New Hampshire Industries, a company specializing in stamped, turned, assembled, and welded products such as pulleys and sheaves, plan to interview for one opening at each of their facilities.

Upon completing the M.O.S.T. program, trainees will then attend a resume-writing and interviewing workshop, be interviewed by the three companies and then placed in a 60 day on-the-job training program, resulting in full-time employment.

“With the help of these organizations, I am confident M.O.S.T. will once again be a success in Keene,” says Zenagui Brahim, Director of Operations at NH MEP. “After their M.O.S.T. training, these new machine operators will be fast-tracked into their careers and will be positioned well to add to their skills and capabilities over time.”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 2007

For more information please contact:

Muriel Mosher

Tel: 207-623-0680

HOSTING M.O.S.T.

KEENE, ME - When you're out of a job, all you can think about is how you'll make a living. When you're a manufacturing company with a shortage of skilled workers, you wonder how you'll ever get your projects done. The New Hampshire Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NH MEP) understands this problem well, and by partnering with the Keene Office of Employment Security, they are helping solve it.

When the M.O.S.T. (Machine Operator Skills Training) mobile training unit arrives at the Keene Office of Employment Security on May 21, ten local out-of-work men and women will be trained in order to secure highly skilled, computerized manufacturing jobs with three New Hampshire companies.

M.O.S.T. is a U.S. Department of Labor pilot program launched in the six (6) New England states and helps local manufacturers fill a rapidly increasing number of vacant Computerized Numerical Control (CNC) machine operator positions. The mobile training unit, equipped with computer terminals and interactive machines, will be in Keene for two weeks as trainees are fast-tracked into new careers.

"In only two weeks, the M.O.S.T. program will give these ten individuals a chance to be trained and land a good job with a New Hampshire company," says Joel Slutsky, manager of the Keene Employment Security Office. "This is a fantastic vehicle, quite literally, to teach people skills that are in-demand for New Hampshire's manufacturing community."

The leadership team at Tidland Corporation agrees.

"We have open positions for 7 of the 10 trainees," says Victor Kissell, Operations Manager at Tidland. "We have vacancies we need to fill, and when we were contacted by the NH MEP to be a part of M.O.S.T., it was a perfect fit." With a plant in Keene, Tidland is an international company that manufactures a range of equipment for slitting and winding paper, plastic film, metal foils, and non-woven materials.

Val Zanchuk, president of Graphicast, is also enthusiastic about partnering with M.O.S.T. Located in Jaffrey, Graphicast is the preeminent company in the field of developing and using graphite mold casting technology to produce precision metal parts for use in products like computers, video imaging equipment and speaker components.

"Graphicast is proud to be a part of the M.O.S.T. program," says Zanchuk. "We have had the benefit of working with the N.H. MEP on lean manufacturing training in the past, and I think it's great that they're supporting M.O.S.T. By doing that, they're supporting us."

“There is an industry-wide shortage of the skilled workers we need to keep our plants running smoothly,” adds Steve Dalessio, General Manager at Lake Machine, the third company participating in the program and offering a position for trainees. Lake Machine, located in Claremont, provides the instrument, medical, sensor, aero-space, electronic and defense industries with quality parts and assemblies. “M.O.S.T. is providing us with the workers we need, and at the same time, helping our neighbors that are out-of-work get back on their feet. It’s a win-win situation.”

Upon completing the M.O.S.T. program, trainees will then attend a resume-writing and interviewing workshop, be interviewed by the three companies and then placed in a 60 day on-the-job training program, resulting in full-time employment.

“I want to thank all organizations involved in making M.O.S.T. happen in Keene,” says Zenagui Brahim, Director of Operations at NH MEP. “Our next M.O.S.T. training is slated for July in Lebanon, and we’re excited to bring the same results and success to that manufacturing community.”

The NH MEP is currently working with the Claremont Office of Employment Security and the N.H. Community Technical College in Claremont to recruit manufacturing organizations and trainees for the July session, as well as facilitate further training and certification post-training. For more information on this session, interested parties can call Zenagui Brahim at 603-226-3200.

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PROSPECTIVE MACHINISTS GET THE M.O.S.T. OUT OF RICH TRAINING
Maine MEP Brings Mobile Skills Training Program to Scarborough Manufacturer,
Fills 10 Job Openings

SCARBOROUGH, ME - Rich Technology International is a company that is expanding rapidly and is one of the leading precision metal manufacturers in the state of Maine. The company needed Computer-Numerically Controlled (CNC) machine operators to work with their machinist on cutting edge machining technology as well as a number of conventional machining processes. But, in today's market, it can be difficult to find workers with the necessary aptitude, skills and knowledge to transition into their operation.

"We needed to hire for positions in all areas, but weren't sure where to start in terms of recruitment for large numbers of employees," said Sam Cushing, Human Resources Manager at Rich. "Some satisfied Maine manufacturers had recommended the M.O.S.T. (Machine Operators Skills Training) program, where a mobile training unit would come to us and help equip new workers with necessary job skills. So I contacted Mike Lambert from the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Maine MEP) and asked him to visit us so we could discuss the program in detail."

Funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, six New England divisions of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, including Maine MEP, administer the M.O.S.T. program. The program uses a mobile training unit to train individuals who may be underemployed, looking for a career change or displaced due to plant closure. The program is designed to help local manufacturers fill vacant CNC machine shop positions. Trainees participate in an intensive 80-hour basic operator skills training process, which is followed by a recommended eight week on-the-job training process.

"Rich Technology partnered with the Portland Career Center and the Maine Quality Center to assist with funding to pay for advertisements for the upcoming M.O.S.T. training, and were able to bring in 56 candidates to be screened initially," said Michael Lambert, project manager for the Maine MEP. "Then the candidates were given tests for mathematical and mechanical aptitude. An additional 80 hours of basic mechanical training such as blueprint reading, machining fundamentals, and shop math was provided by professional instructors from a local high school and community college."

"The mobile unit was located in the Rich Technology parking lot to provide the trainees easy access to the shop floor. This allowed the trainees to make the correlation between the training simulations and the actual manufacturing process on the shop floor," added Cushing. "All 12 progressed to on-the-job training with us and ten of them are now working on the shop floor. They are a real mixed group, ranging from two recent high school graduates to a few very seasoned workers looking to make career changes. We are very happy the Maine MEP was able to help us find and train these workers who are now integral to our production process."

M.O.S.T.® Virtual Reality Welding Training Provides Basic Welding Skills Essential for Successful Employment in Welding, Metal Fabrication Industries



The M.O.S.T.® two-week welding program covers stick (SMAW) and MIG (GMAW) welding skills which are introduced during the second week of training. During the first week of the welding program,

students complete modules on Lean to Green, Shop Math, Blueprint Reading, Measurement and Quality. Week Two begins with Introduction to Arc Welding Fundamentals and Welding Safety and Equipment, followed by welding simulation training.

Virtual Reality Simulators

Two virtual reality arc welding trainers have been added to the M.O.S.T.® Mobile Training Units as educational tools designed to accelerate welding training through the utilization of virtual reality. These VR trainers allow students to practice their welding technique in a simulated environment and promote the efficient and effective transfer of skills from the virtual training environment to the weld booth.

Lincoln Electric's computer-based VRTEX® 360 virtual reality arc welding training system is a VRAW™ (Virtual Reality Arc Welding) training solution that provides a "virtual" hands-on training experience that allows students to complete more passes than traditional training.

The VRTEX® System will simulate:

- SMAW (stick), GMAW (MIG) and FCAW welding processes
- Multiple weld joint configurations and welding positions
- A variety of welding environments

The unit feeds computer-generated data to a VR Welding Helmet equipped with internal monitors. The VR Helmet immerses the student in a virtual reality welding world through

3D stereo eye pieces and sound. Welding technique variables data are provided by sensors in the VR Welding Gun or VR Stinger. Students can practice in a variety of virtual reality welding environments, including simulated welding booth training or field welding applications such as a construction site.



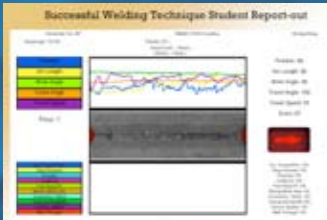
Trains Skilled Welders Faster

Instructors station two students on the system at a time with one in a coaching role and the other practicing their welding technique. Instructors connect the system to a large projection screen on the wall of the mobile unit, which allows each student the opportunity to demonstrate their skills on-screen; it offers an excellent opportunity to teach and critique work. Instructors can point out welding deficiencies to everyone watching, and the class can critique each other's work as a group.

The fact that the virtual reality training system provides real-time welding technique feedback similar to a video game is a plus in the classroom, and serves to build a sense of friendly competition.

Incorporating Virtual Reality Welding training into traditional welding training programs results in students learning more quickly. Skilled welders cannot be trained solely on a welding simulator and require real arc time to hone their welding skills; however, VR Welding Training can provide a fun and beneficial educational experience.

SOLUTIONS
THAT MOVE
BUSINESS
PERFORMANCE
FORWARD



SOLUTIONS
THAT MOVE
BUSINESS
PERFORMANCE
FORWARD

M.O.S.T.® welding students learn proper:

- Body position
- Gun angles
- Travel speeds
- Gun positions
- Welding techniques

Benefits

- Assessment of the student's performance is based on a numerical weld score, based on AVS guidelines. This helps the student understand and learn industry recognized skills.
- Hands on learning of a skill based on the look and feel of a welding machine, but packaged in a game design. The user interface is intuitive and operates with graphical elements and sounds that engage the student.
- Simulators provide real-time continuous feedback to the student, instructor and fellow classmates. This enables the class to benefit from continuous improvement at the student level, but also through coaching and viewing how to adjust and correct improper techniques to achieve a good score.
- Live action LASER screen summarizes the student's welding performance with detailed information about welding technique for each pass. Weld reports can be saved as a pdf file.
- The simulator allows the instructor the opportunity to adjust and change tolerances to match local industry needs and manufacturer specifications and enables customization of the training software to match their objectives. Welding standards can be modified to fit the company's needs; for example, if a manufacturer requires a tighter weld tolerance, it can be tightened on the VR simulator.

Program Requirements

Students in the M.O.S.T.® Welding Program are required to pass the following: Exams in Math, Blueprint, Quality and Measurement, Intro to Welding, and Welding Safety; Quizzes on 3 welding videos; Practical's on the following: Measurement, Good vs. Bad Welds, 3 videos on welding, 2F and 3G welds (Student must complete five in a row of passing quality of each weld on the VR simulator.)

Arc Welding Processes Simulated by the VRTEX®

SMAW (E6010, E6013, and E7018), GMAW (short arc, spray, pulse and STT® metal transfers) and FCAW (Self-shielded and Gas-shielded processes).

SMAW

- E6010 (Fleetweld® 5P+)
- E7018 (Excalibur® 7018)
- E6013 (Fleetweld® 37)

GMAW

- Short Arc (.035" SuperArc® L-56)
- Axial Spray (.045" SuperArc® L-56)
- Pulse (.045" SuperArc® L-56)
- STT® Surface Tension Transfer® (.045" SuperArc® L-56)

Types of Weld Joint Configurations

The simulator comes with 5 welding coupons (Flat Plate, Tee Joint, Groove Joint, 2" XXS Pipe and 6" Sch 40 pipe) that can be used in multiple positions

Positions for VR Coupons

- Plate: Flat, Horizontal, Vertical and Overhead
- Pipe: 2G, 5G and 6G

Accommodates Many Types of Welding Techniques

- Push and drag GMAW techniques
- Stringer beads
- Weave techniques - straight, triangle and box weave

Customization of the VR training simulator welding standards is available to all manufacturers participating in the M.O.S.T.® program.

Florida MEP

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Celebration, FL 34747

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