



Press Release: June 9, 2008

Southwest Ohio Manufacturers' Consortium

Skills Training Leads to Careers in Manufacturing

There's good news for candidates who would like a manufacturing career at some of the area's premier manufacturing companies. Graduates of the Southwest Ohio Manufacturers' Consortium's new pre-Employment Training Program offered at Butler Tech are practically guaranteed to be hired by one of the Consortium Companies----companies like:

- BAE Systems (Fairfield)
- Force Control, Inc. (Fairfield)
- Hamilton Caster (Hamilton)
- Miller Brewing Company (Trenton)
- ThyssenKrupp Bilstein of America, Inc. (Hamilton)
- Tipco Punch (Hamilton)
- United Performance Metals (Hamilton)

The Southwest Ohio Manufacturers' Consortium is a group of companies operating in Butler County and contiguous counties. These companies shared a common concern: their ability to consistently attract and retain qualified, loyal candidates for Manufacturing jobs in the area. The group recognized that the ability to hire and retain good, qualified people was critical-- not only for sustaining viability in their own companies, but also for the future economic development of the Southwest Ohio region. But, what could they do about it?

Butler Tech often has solutions. No exception this time. Butler Tech has a 30-year history of working with business and industry to meet the workforce development needs of our region. In March 2007, Butler Tech facilitated the creation of the Southwest Ohio Manufacturers' Consortium. Leaders from regional manufacturing companies, state and local economic development, Greater Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, and area Workforce One Offices joined with Butler Tech to work on development of an approach to improve the local labor pool.

A Pre-employment Training Program (PET) was developed. Butler Tech built the Consortium program based upon the curriculum of the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council. The resulting program is a 7-week, 140 hour program in which candidates learn about critical requirements for manufacturing careers today: Safety; Quality & Continuous Improvement; Manufacturing Processes & Production; Maintenance Awareness; and Employability. Program graduates earn the nationally recognized Production Technician Certification, issued by the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council. A pilot class for the Consortium's program ran April 1 through May 15. Some of the Consortium Companies sent

current employees, including Supervisors, to participate in the program, evaluate, and validate. One of the pilot class members was looking for a job at graduation. Scott Waters, of Hamilton, was quickly rewarded when he was hired as an Assembler at the ThyssenKrupp Bilstein of America, Inc. Hamilton Plant immediately upon graduation!

Early returns indicate this new pre-employment Training program will be very successful. The program value is about \$3500. The good news is the Consortium has a solution to handle the cost. The Consortium has secured funding which may allow qualified candidates to participate in the program tuition free. That's good news for prospective candidates---no tuition costs. Applicants will pay only for costs associated with pre-enrollment requirements such as: drug screens; background checks; Work keys Test---all for approximately \$150.

The first class for the Consortium's Program will begin August 18, 2008. Interested candidates should contact:

Program Supervisor, Industrial & Business Programs

Butler Technology and Career development Schools

3603 Hamilton-Middletown Road

Hamilton, Ohio 45011

513-645-8200

Area Manufacturers interested in hiring and retaining better candidates are joining the Consortium. Companies interested in information about joining the Southwest Ohio Manufacturers' Consortium may contact Scott Ellsworth at 513-874-9140. Scott is Vice president of Tipco Punch and Chairman of the Southwest Ohio Manufacturers' Consortium. Scott is also the current Chairman of the Greater Hamilton Chamber of Commerce.

Manufacturing is alive and well in Southwest Ohio. Thanks to the Southwest Ohio Manufacturers' Consortium, it will likely get healthier.

Contact: Scott Ellsworth, Chairman SWOMC Executive Committee

513-874-9140