

PRESS RELEASE

September 20, 2013

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Training Motivated Youth for the Workforce

“Local Employers Offer Training in Manufacturing for Youth”

Elgin-area youth are starting new career paths thanks to the efforts of several local manufacturing companies. The companies are part of the Kane County Manufacturing Careers Internship Program (MCIP) designed to help place youth wanting to start a career in manufacturing with local employers looking to attract young, entry-level employees.

Funded through the Kane County Department of Employment & Education, through a grant awarded by the River Valley Workforce Investment Board, the MCIP addresses both issues through an innovative nine-week program. The program, open to WIA-eligible youth ages 18 – 21 includes a three-week boot camp followed by a six-week internship at local manufacturing company. At the end of the internship the employers can elect to hire the intern, or the youth can pursue additional education and certification.

“I am a firm believer that the best employees are “home grown,” said Eric Smith, HR Director at Hoffer Plastics, one of the companies involved with the program. “It’s difficult to find someone that has the exact work experience, and I think it’s important to give motivated young adults a chance at a promising career.”

The public-private program works closely with manufacturers, post-secondary institutions, economic and workforce development professionals and industry associations to provide job skills, workplace skills and an industry overview of career opportunities. The MCIP was developed by Business and Career Services in Arlington Heights, in cooperation with Medusa Consulting Group and first piloted in northern Cook County. To date, 86% of the interns completing the MCIP are employed, or are pursuing post-secondary training and education.

“The MCIP helps motivate and encourage the interns to consider starting a career in manufacturing. If not given a broad overview, perception might be that manufacturing is mundane. They need to see the technology, and experience the many facets of manufacturing,” said Bob Malm, Director of the Elgin Development Group.

In addition to Hoffer Plastics, other leading Elgin-area companies participating in the MCIP include: AM Swiss Screw, Bystronic, Custom Aluminum, Elgin Sweeper, Hydrox Labs, Kenmode Tool & Engineering, Multi-Film Corporation, Olcott Plastics and Winergy.

Business and Career Services Inc. Executive Director, Al Saulys said, “America’s young people face record unemployment, and we need to provide them with opportunities to learn the skills and work ethic required for a job. It’s important for their future, and for the future of employers.” Saulys continued, “The Manufacturing Careers Internship Program represents an ideal way for a public-private partnership to provide pathways to employment.”

Saulys invites manufacturers throughout Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties that want to participate in this program to contact him at 847-437-9395 or at asaulys@bcsillinois.org.

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