

## SPECIAL EDUCATION EDITION

### ECC, Manufacturing Companies Form Alliance to Benefit Students and Employers

Erie Community College has formed an alliance with manufacturing companies in Western New York in order to prepare students for employment in the manufacturing industry and also to provide services to businesses in the form of hands-on training and technical assistance.

ECC officials and representatives of several area companies met Thursday, Dec. 9 at ECC's South Campus, 4041 Southwestern Blvd., Orchard Park, to discuss the mission of the alliance, as well as to identify goals that will meet the needs of both students and the community.

The manufacturing alliance was created as a result of ECC's Machine Tools Pathway, a program that was first offered at the College this fall. The Machine Tools Pathway is an outgrowth of the College's collaboration with the Metalworking Institute of Western New York, which closed in 2003 after 26 years. The Institute donated its assets totaling more than \$500,000 to ECC's Industrial Technology Department through an endowment fund.

ECC has also invested \$250,000 in renovating classrooms, labs and equipment to create a state-of-the-art lab at its North Campus, located at 6205 Main St., Williamsville to serve students in the Industrial Technology program.

The College recognized that the success of its Machine Tools depended on the local manufacturing and machining community, Richard Washousky, ECC associate vice president for academic affairs, said.

ECC's goal is to prepare students and job seekers to meet the needs of the region's manufacturing industry.

The Machine Tools Pathway is part of ECC's Industrial Technology program. The Industrial Technology program provides academic coursework, hands-on skills and advanced manufacturing processes required by businesses today. Graduates can enter or advance in such fields as mold making, model making, die making, machine repair and

computer numerical control machining.

It provides a broad based skills set on which students can build solid careers as well as a strategy for lifelong learning and career modification.

By developing this industry-driven alliance, ECC and area companies will take the lead in attracting young adults into the manufacturing field and increase awareness of the tremendous number of employment opportunities available in the manufacturing sector. Members will also work to change the misconceptions that surround the manufacturing industry.

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Instructors from ECC, along with adjunct professors from the College's manufacturing partnerships, will train manufacturing personnel to use the latest in manufacturing machinery.

The program offers additional benefits to area industry in that it provides education and training aimed at upgrading the skills of existing employees.

Data from the New York State Department of Labor indicates that there is, and will continue to be, a great demand for skilled machinists. A large majority of young people are pursuing white collar jobs and companies are having difficulty finding highly skilled machinists, especially those with experience programming

computer numerical control machines.

Western New York is losing jobs at an alarming rate as companies are shipping out high tech workers.

"Our region needs these jobs and if we all work together, we can turn the tide," Washousky said.

"First, we will work on immediate needs and fill open jobs, but second, ECC could be a catalyst to attract and retain businesses," Paul Pietraszewski, industrial technology department head, ECC, said.

ECC's Machine Tools Pathway will align the needs of employers with the supply of available skilled workers. The College's Workforce Development Department can even customize curriculum and training according to specific needs.

"Look at your company - where you are, where you want to go: we can help you," Carrie Kahn, ECC executive dean of workforce development, said.

"Economic development, employment and education; you can't have one without the other," Mark Hoeber, assistant academic dean for technology at ECC said. "We have a common goal, we care about people and we care about our community. Industrial Technology is the means to accomplish our goals."

ECC is excited about the dynamic changes that are occurring in industry today and aims to stay at the forefront of new developments in order to provide the latest innovations in technology for businesses in Western New York.

For more information, contact Richard Washousky at (716) 851-1765.

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Public Information Officer  
(716) 851-1207

*Manufacturing Alliance membership list*

Bob Baker - Johnson Precision, Inc.  
Tim Baker - Medsource

CC, Manufacturing... (Continued from Page 4)

Lee Bakus – Medsource  
 Rick Betschen – JRB Machines  
 Vita Casoni – SMG  
 James Finamore – Buffalo and Erie County

Workforce Investment Board, Inc.  
 John Goller – Arrow Grinding, Inc.  
 Robert Gralke – North American Carbide  
 Margurite Grego – Empire State

**Development**

Mike Keller – Keller Technology Corp.  
 Jack Kopcznski – Ascension Industries  
 Dick Leed – Leed Steel, Inc.  
 Joe Liberti – Gaymar  
 Ron McCarthy – Manth Manufacturing, Inc.  
 Kathy Mecca – Taylor Metal Works  
 Larry Menkowski – Nowtech, Inc.  
 Tom Novelli – Elrae Industries, Inc.  
 Paul Nowicki – Nowtech, Inc.  
 Kathleen O'Brien – Employment and

**Training Center**

Tom Owczarzak, Palma Tool and Die  
 Ray Pratt – North American Carbide  
 Jeff Rathmann – Willard Machine  
 Trish Rollisan – McGard  
 Hank Rydzik – Moog, Inc.  
 Joann Simon – McGard  
 Gary Simon – Erie County Office of

**Economic Development**

Tim Smith – Advanced Tech  
 Mark Sporysz – Moldcraft, Inc.  
 Bill Tate – Palma Tool and Die  
 Jeff Tucker – WNY Pattern and Tool, Inc.  
 Don Zgoda – McGard  
 Lee Dombrowski – Moog

**Need Employees?**

The site listed below will provide you with the opportunity to post job openings within the eight counties of Western New York and search their resume data base of job seekers: at NO COST to you!

Many area students and residents are simply unaware of the career opportunities that exist right here at home. And those who left this region in search of fame and fortune have found that the grass is not always greener. There are many expatriates who would move home in a heartbeat given the right opportunity. [www.iambuffaloniagarajob.com](http://www.iambuffaloniagarajob.com)

—Submitted by Linda Seipel

**BOCES Provides Entry Level Machinest**

Precision Metalworking Technology is a two year course at the Harkness and Potter Rd Career Centers, part of Erie 1 BOCES system. Our program is an approved technology course endorsed by the state of New York Department of education. Ted Ebert and I, Jim Sypniewski are NIMS (National Institute of Metalworking Skills) certified instructors. Students can achieve up to seven certifications of NIMS at our facilities. We have articulation agreements with local colleges for students who meet the requirements. Erie 1 BOCES serves twentyone school districts from Grand Island to Hamburg.

**How do we get students?**

Students sign up for the program they selected at the guidance office in their home school. We do have guidance counselors who will go to the various school districts and talk to the students about Erie 1 and the programs that we offer. At times the instructors will go out and talk to students as well. Often we find that students are not familiar what machine tool is and what we do. Included in the program are mathematics and English Language Arts elements to assist students in meeting the New York Learning Standards.

For further details you can contact the instructors

**What is Precision Metalworking Technology?**

Precision Metalworking Technology is a two-year course. In the first year the students will learn the basic concepts for beginning machinists. It is designed to acquaint the

entry-level machining student with concepts of, turning, grinding, tapping, sawing as well as blueprint reading and, related math. The emphasis of the course is developing basic skills.

In the second year the students have the opportunity for further enhancement of skills learned in the first year. The lab time emphasis is placed upon developing high skills to accomplish complex precision machine operations. Advanced topics include precision layout, quality control, and precision machining processes as well as CNC mill and lathe training. Second year students are placed at an internship site for thirty hours near the end of their senior year. Something new added this year is a tractor pull; Students are given prints of a tractor and must complete the fabrication from raw material to print specs. The tractors are powered entirely by compressed air.

At completion of the project the class will have a competition on a dirt gravel track.

For any additional information, contact:

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\*Prior advertising indicating a similarity between Thin Dense Chrome, Armoloy™, and Electroplating™ was found to be in error.

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