



Inspiring every day.

Workforce Development

March 2017

Monroe Community College is a national model for meaningful collaborations with employers and job-training programs that align with local employment opportunities. Our approach to Greater Rochester's current and emerging workforce needs is to ground strategies in local labor market data. MCC's Division of Economic Development and Innovative Workforce Services recently launched a website, www.mcclmi.com, to increase regional awareness of the mismatch between labor market supply and demand, and guide MCC's investments in education and training programs in collaboration with a recently established Regional Advisory Board. Here are several MCC initiatives that provide diverse learners with clear paths to sustaining careers.

MCC to Establish Regional Training Center for High-demand Fields

With state funding of nearly \$12 million in place, MCC has begun work to establish the Finger Lakes Workforce Development (FWD) Center in Eastman Business Park, aimed at producing skilled workers across manufacturing sectors and technical occupations.

"MCC's vision for the center includes creating flexible spaces that support a variety of credit and noncredit programs and allow us to quickly modify programming to match the skills the College has measured as being most in demand within the region's key technology clusters," said Todd Oldham, vice president of MCC's Economic Development and Innovative Workforce Services Division.

MCC's offerings at the FWD Center will include applied training in fields such as mechatronics, precision tooling, hydraulics and computer applications as well as enhanced training in entrepreneurial skills, effective communication, teamwork and critical thinking.



Eastman Business Park's 1,200-acre campus is home to over 60 tenant companies and owners, employing about 5,000 non-Kodak workers.

Photo provided/Eastman Kodak Co.

A portion of the dedicated space in the facility will be used for noncredit apprenticeship training for skilled trades occupations, such as electricians and pipefitters.

Over the next five years, the FWD Center is expected to educate and train more than 2,300 workers and add \$40 million in economic benefits to the region. The initiative will support the Pathways to Prosperity focus of the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council plan.

\$6 Million Federal Grant Supports Tuition-free Education, Training

Thanks to a \$6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, MCC will lead an initiative that provides tuition-free education and training in high-demand fields of advanced manufacturing, information technology and health care.

The *Project Inspire: Advancing Finger Lakes Forward* initiative focuses on providing underserved urban and rural residents, and incumbent workers with middle- to high-skills training through paid apprenticeships, paid clinical internships and experiential learning.



Over the next four years, the grant will allow more than 1,000 eligible participants across the Finger Lakes region to receive education and training at no cost.

Project Inspire is an initiative of the Finger Lakes United for Success Consortium, a partnership of regional SUNY community colleges, workforce development boards, employer associations, and the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council.



Monroe Community College

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Manufacturer Strengthens Workforce Through Customized Training

MCC's Corporate College provided workforce training to nearly 200 employers and organizations in the public and private sectors in 2015-16.

Brinkman Products Inc. was one of the businesses that sought customized training for its workers. The Rochester-based employer designs, manufactures and assembles proprietary product lines for advanced manufacturers worldwide.

To stay competitive in today's economy, Brinkman Products worked with MCC to develop a training program for more than a dozen workers to upgrade their skills and knowledge. Topics included machine shop print reading, geometric dimensioning and tolerancing, and math for machine technology.

Held onsite at Brinkman-owned Davenport Machine, the first 80-hour program proved to be such a success that a second session was offered. Additionally, the first group of participants continued their training, advancing to the next level and adding a course on principles of metallurgy to their program.

"With MCC's help, our employees are gaining the skills they need to succeed," said Dan Bavineau, director of Manufacturing Excellence at Brinkman International Group, "and we are developing a knowledgeable workforce that our company can utilize to succeed and grow."

Bridge Program Graduate Pursues College Credential

Since its inception in January 2016, MCC's Middle Skills Bridge Program has provided academic support to over two dozen underserved residents, including military veterans, putting them on the path to a postsecondary credential or industry certification.

Vincent Owens, a Marine Corps veteran who lives in Rochester, turned to the program for help with his academic skills in his pursuit of a college credential and a sustaining career. With only a high school education, Vincent struggled to find employment in the past few years.

During the 10-week accelerated program held at the Veterans Outreach Center (VOC), he worked on improving his



MCC student Vincent Owens, left, assembles a tool holder for a drill used in a CNC milling machine while his instructor, Anthony McCollough, watches.

reading, writing and math skills. By the time he completed the program, he was prepared for college-level coursework and enrolled in MCC's accelerated precision tooling certificate program.

"The program at the VOC has given me an opportunity toward employment," Vincent said. "It's helped me with my skills—my math, English, the stuff I learned when I was young—and to put those things to use."



Big Data Project Expands to Assess Surrounding Regions' Workforce Needs

MCC has produced two new interactive reports analyzing the advanced manufacturing workforce needs of Western and Central New York.

The reports represent the College's latest efforts to bridge the skills gaps and provide educators, workforce developers and economic developers with a deeper, data-driven understanding of the regional economy.

Produced in collaboration with Manufacturers Association of Central New York and WNY STEM, *Measuring Middle-Skills Gaps within the Western New York Regional Economy* and *Measuring Middle-Skills Gaps: Advanced Manufacturing in Central New York* quantify current and projected labor shortages and surpluses across four occupational groups in manufacturing.

The occupational groups are tooling and machining, applied integrated technologies/mechatronics, mechanical engineering technologies, and electrical engineering technologies.

The reports are available at www.workforceforward.com/reports. To view MCC's labor market data analyses, visit www.mccmi.com.

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