

# Regional Educators & Manufacturers Join Forces

NEW BREMEN -- An initial group of area manufacturing leaders, colleges, career centers, high school officials and local resources have joined together to implement a plan to improve the skill-set and qualifications of entry-level workers in the Manufacturing sector. It is the goal of this initial workforce development effort to make visible the varied types of training that are available to the community and where possible, bring manufacturing training to the local area. Through this effort, a talent pool of qualified employees can be developed that will assist our communities and ensure a stronger economy.

Presently, the unemployment level is 9.2% in the state of Ohio. However, within a small radius of Auglaize County, there are approximately 250 manufacturing positions going unfilled. The opportunities of employment, at well established manufacturing facilities, offering good pay wages and benefit packages, are available. Unfortunately, there is a gap between the skilled, qualified pool of workers and these positions. For those reasons, this group of employers, educators and workforce professionals have come together, to try to bridge the gap that exists.

The challenges facing the Manufacturing industry includes a lack of prepared workforce for more technically prepared job requirements. The industry is looking for a pool of workers that have the skills needed to flourish in today's economy. The skills gap is not just a local issue being experienced, it is a national issue. We believe that this issue needs to be addressed locally for opportunities to be realized. This initiative targets high school graduates, displaced workers, and incumbent workers looking to improve their current skill-set.

Educators at Tri-Star, Wright State University-Lake Campus, Rhodes State, Upper Valley, Apollo and the West Central Ohio Manufacturing Consortium (WCOMC) have course work in: machine trades (including CNC machining), welding, robotics, PLC, electrical and several other programs. Future offerings, in the area, are being considered and will be rolled out in the near future. Some of these programs require as little as three months of training to become certified.

For those interested, visit individual education websites or go to WCOMC website at [www.wcomfg.com](http://www.wcomfg.com) for current curriculums and contact information.

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## Education & Career Centers



[www.uvjvs.org](http://www.uvjvs.org)



[www.wright.edu](http://www.wright.edu)



[www.tristarcareercompact.com](http://www.tristarcareercompact.com)



[www.apollocareercenter.com](http://www.apollocareercenter.com)



[www.rhodesstate.edu](http://www.rhodesstate.edu)



[www.wcomfg.com](http://www.wcomfg.com)

## Manufacturing Businesses:



## Local Resources:

