

MANUFACTURING

# PATHWAYS

for Career and Business Success

## Director's Report ●

The Manufacturing Institute and Deloitte Consulting recently released the results of an online nationwide survey of 1,000 Americans on their views and perceptions of manufacturing. An overwhelming majority of those surveyed indicated that manufacturing is vital to this nation's economy and national security and a strategy needs to be implemented to develop this nation's manufacturing base.

The survey also showed that fewer respondents from post Baby Boomer generations had positive perceptions on manufacturing, and only about 30% indicated they would encourage their children to pursue a career in manufacturing.

Here is a snapshot of the survey results:

- 71% think that developing a strong manufacturing base should be a national priority.
- 81% feel that this nation's manufacturing base is important to its standard of living.
- 82% indicated that manufacturing is important to this nation's economic prosperity.
- 59% feel that U.S. manufacturers can compete globally.
- 68% believe manufacturing is important to our national security.
- Manufacturing was rated as most important to maintaining a strong national economy, ahead of technology, energy, health care, financial services, retail and communications.
- 74% stated that the U.S. should invest more in its manufacturing industry. However, there was less support in investing in manufacturing among persons in the 18-24 and 25-34 age groups.
- Two-thirds think that manufacturing is high-tech. Again, there tended to be less support in the younger age groups.
- 59% agree that manufacturing requires a well-educated, high-skilled workforce, with the greatest support coming from Baby Boomers and retirees.
- 77% want a strategic approach to developing this nation's manufacturing sector.
- Manufacturing received the highest response to the question, "If you could create 1,000 new jobs in your community by establish-



**Doug Durliat ●**

*Director,  
Manufacturing Pathways*



ing a new facility, what type of facility would you support?" While there were some glowing attitudes on manufacturing, there were some stigmas:

- Only 35% felt that manufacturing paid better than other industries.
- 33% indicated that manufacturing jobs are clean and safe.
- 30% want their children to pursue a manufacturing career; 49% did not.
- 61% indicated that their school system does not encourage students to pursue manufacturing careers.
- Manufacturing ranks only fifth as a career choice, behind technology, health care, energy and communications.

Several of these survey findings are nothing new. It means we must continue communicating with key persons in our school systems to show them the challenges and rewards in manufacturing, as well as engaging the students in manufacturing settings at as early of an age as possible. Studies have shown that retention rates of students in engineering fields increase as you engage them at a younger age. This in turn would address the state's impending shortage of skilled manufacturing workers and its "brain drain" where our state's brightest students leave the state to pursue careers elsewhere.

West Central Ohio  
**WCOMC**  
 Manufacturing Consortium

## Minster Machine Winner of Training and Education Award ●

WCOMC member Minster Machine Company was a recipient of the 2009 A.R. Hedberg Training and Education Award as part of the Precision Metalforming Association's (PMA's) annual Awards of Excellence in Metalforming.

Minster was honored for its Future Workforce Development Initiative, created in response to the need for a higher-skilled workforce to meet market demands for innovation and technology advances and the need to replace a retiring senior workforce. The initiative targeted two areas of the company: engineering and OEM assembly.

To pursue and develop engineering talent, Minster directed its efforts to programs such as trainee engineering programs (part-time high school), intern opportunities (early college summer work terms) and co-op opportunities (advanced college work terms).

Because of Minster's senior workforce in the OEM assembly area, an apprentice program also was put into place to stop the loss of these

skills and actually increase the overall skills of the OEM assembly area.

The OEM assembly program has become a pilot for other programs within Minster, including service technician, machine-tool builder, welding, precision machinist, mechatronics, remanufacturing and foundry-molding apprentices.

PMA is the full-service trade association representing the \$91-billion metalforming industry of North America—the industry that creates precision metal products using stamping, fabricating and other value-added processes.

More information on PMA's Awards of Excellence in Metalforming is available at [www.pma.org](http://www.pma.org).



*Governor Strickland (center) recently visited Minster Machine to recognize their staff for their training and education program. To Strickland's right is Dan Schoch and to his left is Dan Keller, both of Minster Machine.*

## Pathway Student Spotlight – Bob King ●



One person's change in career has opened up a pathway for many.

For 10 years, Bob King had owned and operated trucking companies that employed as many as 19 drivers. Because of changes in regulations stemming from 9/11, he was forced to make a career change. So, in mid-2006, Bob enrolled in Apollo's Multi-Craft Industrial Technology (MIT) program for training in manufacturing maintenance. "When I was coming up to the end of that program (Fall 2007), the Apollo financial aid official indicated I had money left to pursue more education."

With that news, King met with Dave Brown, Dean of Rhodes State College's Division of Information Technology/Engineering Technology to discuss pursuing an associate's degree. "After meeting with him (Brown), he said it was doable after reviewing my transcripts," said King.

In general, a course of study is designed under an ATS in which technical courses are integrated with general and basic studies courses. In Bob's case, his Apollo

MIT courses were counted toward his Rhodes State ATS degree in Industrial Manufacturing Technology.

Brown said there were several factors occurring at the time he met with King. The WCOMC had approved Apollo's request to include its MIT and MET programs in the consortium's intermediate pathway. "At that point, we needed to provide a pathway for those students to the next step, an associate's degree," Brown explained. In addition, Ohio Skills Bank, the state's workforce development program, began emphasizing the creation of stackable certificates among education partners within the state's 12 economic development regions. "We are now being encouraged by the state to validate adult education credentials, not have them being terminal certificates, but having a path to the next level."

Brown said an ATS requires a minimum of 90 credit hours. King's MIT certificate from Apollo articulated to 40 credit hours from Rhodes State. Articulations for ATS degrees for students from other regional institutions will be drafted as demand dictates, Brown said.





Solutions, etc. . . at Rhodes State provides customized workforce training for manufacturers in West Central Ohio in a variety of areas. It is available to WCOMC members. For more information, call 419-995-8406 or check their website: [www.solutions-etc.com](http://www.solutions-etc.com)

## Poeppelman Named WCOMC Scholarship Winner ●

Lance Poeppelman, a Ridgemont High School graduate, was named winner of the \$500 WCOMC Endowed Scholarship.

Poeppelman, who will study engineering technology at Rhodes State College this fall, was chosen by a committee last spring.

The scholarship was created in 2007 by the WCOMC Full Board of Directors. It is awarded to a Rhodes State College student pursuing a degree or certificate in a manufacturing-related field.

The consortium's initial investment toward the endowed scholarship was \$5,000. The WCOMC may increase the amount as funds allow.



The foundation was established in 1978 to promote Rhodes State College. One of its purposes is to make quality education more affordable to current and potential students.

## Process Operator Curriculum Being Formed for 2009-10 ●

This fall, officials from Rhodes State College, Apollo Career Center and the West Central Ohio Manufacturing Consortium will begin a seamless education and training program for incumbent and future employees of process operations in Lima and Allen County.

Apollo and Rhodes State College received a \$215,000 grant from the City of Lima through the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Division. The grant will be used to modify the current 184-hour Apollo process operator program, create an intermediate certificate and an Associate of Technical Studies (ATS) degree for process operator training from Rhodes State College. Persons completing the Apollo program may apply it toward two of the nine courses in the intermediate certificate. Coursework in the certificate may be applied toward the ATS degree.

A survey of 15 process operations from Allen County was conducted this spring. Data from the survey was used to modify and create the curriculum for the program. A series of meetings has been held with officials from the surveyed companies, Rhodes State College, Apollo and the City of Lima to determine the curriculum and financial assistance available under the program.

