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Jobs in Aerospace Manufacturing Project (JAM) – Industry Driven Workforce Development Project

The North Shore Workforce Investment Board is proud to announce as of September 6th, the implementation of the Jobs in Aerospace Manufacturing Project's pre-employed training program for 28 participants. Lead by five North Shore Aerospace companies, a new partnership designed to strengthen the skills of new and incumbent workers in manufacturing technologies is moving forward with much success.

The Aerospace manufacturing industry has a strong presence on the North Shore, and offers solid job opportunities to those with skills in math and science. Recognizing this, the NSWIB received a grant funded through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Economic Stimulus Act of 2004. This Act, funded by the state legislature and managed by Commonwealth Corporation, recognized that one key to the economic health of the state is ensuring that local companies receive assistance in training and maintaining a high skilled labor market. JAM fits directly into this category. The primary goal of the project is to develop and implement a system in which entry-level workers can successfully enter and remain in the aerospace manufacturing/metal working trade, a critical industry in our region. An additional project component is to work with the incumbent workers at

our partner companies to increase their skill levels and improve their employment positions. This component of the project began this spring.

The JAM project has five aerospace manufacturing partners:

1. Bomco: dedicated to the use of leading-edge technologies and manufacturing techniques to economically produce precision-formed metal components for original equipment manufacturers.
2. Boston Centerless: an industry leader in supplying precision ground bar materials and grinding services, specializing in extremely close tolerances.
3. Hansen Engineering & Machinery: world leaders in precision-machined parts for aerospace applications.
4. Middleton Aerospace Corporation: leading manufacturer of highly complex precision turbine engine components and a core strategic supplier to major turbine engine manufacturers.
5. Wilbur Tracey Associates: offer their customers access to various milling and turning centers suitable for singular prototype projects or long production runs.

All of the aerospace partners have agreed to hire interns from the JAM project.

Other partners in the JAM project include:

- North Shore Workforce Investment Board
- North Shore Career Center
- North Shore Community College
- E-Team Machinist Training Program

The machinist training is comprised of academic and technical classes. Academic classes are taught by North Shore Community College, classes include: Math (Algebra & Trigonometry) and Soft Skills Training. The E-Team Machinist Training Program teaches technical classes, including: Geometric Tolerancing, Basic Machining, and Blue Print Reading.

According to Bob Segal, President of Middleton Aerospace, “The JAM program is filling a critical need for all companies who require a skilled workforce in manufacturing. We must ship perfect components to our customers, and our employees must be continually sharpening their skills in math and related areas in order to do this. There is limited opportunity locally for this training to take place, and we thank North Shore Community College and the E-Team, under the leadership of the NSWIB, for making this project possible and successful.”

JAM students’ come from various cities and towns in North Eastern Massachusetts, including Lynn, Salem, Gloucester, and Lawrence. They are a diverse group. Students range in age from 18 to 56 and come from many different backgrounds. Despite these differences, students have much in common. Nearly all students are employed, working during the day and attending class evenings and Saturdays. While, some are already in the manufacturing industry and looking for additional skills in order to advance, most are looking to change careers and enter an industry that provides a good income, benefits, and a career path with growth opportunities. For example, one student entered the program as a pizza delivery person. Since starting the program, one of JAM’s industry partners has hired him, on condition that he continue with training, to be an apprentice machinist.

He is now making significantly more money, receiving benefits, and well on his way to a career in the aerospace manufacturing industry.

In addition, JAM is currently expanding its partnership in order to develop more internship opportunities for students. Manufacturing companies interested in hiring an intern should contact the North Shore Workforce Investment Board at 978-741-3805 or visit our website at www.northshorewib.com