

Metals Manufacturers in Mercer County Take Story of Need for Skilled Employees to County School Boards

MERCER COUNTY, PA – October 30, 2009 – A team of owners of metals manufacturing firms in Mercer County are speaking to county school boards about how to ease the shortage of individuals in the county who have both the skills and interests in a career in manufacturing necessary to meet the anticipated demand by area manufacturers. “Folks realize that we are in a deep recession that will not last and that metal skills career training for high school students now is a good investment for students, parents and the community,” said Dale Deist, President of Buck’s Fabricating in Hadley, the group’s leader. “School directors can play an important role in helping to prevent that shortage.”

Presentations to the Commodore Perry and Greenville school boards have already been made. Members of the group plan to make similar presentations to the other ten county school boards during November and December. In addition to Deist, participating manufacturers taking the lead in this initiative are Greg Carone, President of Technical Precision in Hadley; Tom Cusick, President of Northeast Industrial Manufacturing, Inc. in Greenville; Jeff Thompson, President of Thompson Fabricating in Farrell; and Phil Moroco, President of American Cap Company in Wheatland, PA.

Each presentation lasts approximately 20 minutes and includes a short video on Metals Skills Careers that highlights opportunities in Metals Manufacturing offered by the ninety-six metals companies located in Mercer County.

“Skills obtained now at the Mercer County Career Center during the high school years will prepare students who choose careers in manufacturing to earn about 25% higher wages when they graduate than their classmates who choose nonmanufacturing careers. We expect the recession to be gone by the time they graduate and the opportunities for good, family sustaining careers to still be available right here in Mercer County,” Deist emphasized. “And that’s not all. Becoming skilled in metal skills can be a springboard to advancement within the manufacturing community – or any other career track.”

The goal of the Metals Skills Opportunities presentations is to encourage school board members to open the way for guidance counselors and teachers to promote Metal Skills Careers as viable, family-sustaining careers. The required skills can be learned during the high school years at the Career Center. Graduates with these skills will find ample employment with Mercer County’s modern, progressive metals manufacturing companies and facilities. Mercer County has roughly twice as many manufacturing career opportunities per capita as the National average for counties its size.

“We are asking the School Board to allow students in grades 10, 11, and 12, who choose, to attend the Career Center for 480 to 1000 hours of metal skills careers instruction,” concluded Deist.

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