

Manufacturing Careers Internship Program

Innovative Jobs Program

Summer 2011

Participating Manufacturers

Angiotech, Wheeling
Arrow Plastics,
Elk Grove Village
Bley, Elk Grove Village
DMG Mori Seiki,
Hoffman Estates
Dynomax, Wheeling
E.J. Basler, Schiller Park
Fanuc Robotics,
Hoffman Estates
Iverson & Co., Des Plaines
Kitagawa NorthTech,
Schaumburg
Keats Manufacturing,
Wheeling
Mazak Corporation,
Schaumburg
Nu-way Industries,
Des Plaines
Spartanics,
Rolling Meadows
Sandvik Coromant,
Schaumburg
R.A. Zweig, Glenview

Participating Communities

Des Plaines
Elk Grove Village
Hoffman Estates
Rolling Meadows
Schaumburg
Schiller Park
Wheeling



Internship Program Overview

Too few of today's youth are knowledgeable of the high-paying career opportunities available in the manufacturing sector. Industry sources show the average employee in manufacturing makes \$73,000 a year, compared to the average income of \$52,000 per year for employees in the service industry.

However few youths have had the opportunity to see first-hand the opportunities, career paths and successful role-models in the manufacturing sector. This has resulted in a critical shortage of skilled workers needed by America's manufacturing industry, with estimates ranging from 500,000 to 1 million job openings currently available – and not enough qualified workers. In fact, some Illinois Manufacturers have had to turn away business because they can not meet the deadlines to fill the orders.

To address this vexing problem of too many jobs and not enough qualified employees, the Illinois workNet Center, and the Workforce Board of Northern Cook County utilized a federal grant to launch an innovative pilot program to prepare youth for long-term career opportunities in manufacturing - **The Manufacturing Careers Internship Program**. **The Manufacturing Careers Internship Program** exposed young adults to careers in manufacturing from the ground up and within their own

Critical Components of a Successful Internship Program

1. Manufacturing Boot Camp

Two week boot camp of classroom and field tours of participating manufacturer's facilities in the region.

2. Manufacturing Job Fair

A mini manufacturing job fair allowing manufacturers an opportunity to meet and identify the internship candidates who best meet their requirements.

3. Continuous Encouragement

Ongoing oversight and workplace visits to assure a meaningful internship experience and address any issues or concerns.

4. Program Successes to Date

Twenty youth have successfully completed the eight week internship program. Eleven interns were offered, and accepted a job in manufacturing. Six interns showed interest in gaining additional education and training needed for a career in manufacturing. Three chose a different career pathway and are pursuing training and employment.

5. Recognition Night

To further promote manufacturing careers and recognize the accomplishment of the young interns, a very special "Recognition Event" was hosted by Sandvik Coromant, in Schaumburg, IL, on **October 13, 2011** for participating manufacturers and the interns. Elected officials, high school career counselors, Workforce Board members, parents, economic developers, community colleges, and community stakeholders participated.

Goals of The Manufacturing Career Internship Program

- **Create a pipeline of qualified employees for manufacturers.**
- **Provide a meaningful work experience in the manufacturing sector.**
- **Teach the future workforce about opportunities and careers in manufacturing.**
- **Understand the training and skills needed to achieve success in the manufacturing industry.**