

Students Introduced to Manufacturing as Career Path

Champaign County manufacturers, like those across the country, can't find enough qualified people to fill skilled positions. And a large segment of their workforce is nearing retirement. At the same time, youth want rewarding, well-paying jobs that don't require a level of post-secondary education or training that would put them in the kind of debt faced by students pursuing four-year degrees.

So, the CEP partnered with local manufacturers, Champaign County schools, Ohio Hi-Point Career Center and Urbana University, to offer the fifth annual Champaign County Manufacturing Day on Oct. 7.

About 100 students learned what local manufacturers produce, the job opportunities they offer and the skills and training needed to qualify for them. The students toured Bundy Baking Solutions, the Hall Company, Honeywell Aerospace, ORBIS Corporation, Rittal Corporation and WEIDMANN Electrical Technology. And at Urbana University they participated in informative and hands-



Jeremiah Stocksdales shows students products made by The Hall Company.

on activities provided by Honeywell, Rittal, The Hall Company and KTH Parts Industries.

Local manufacturers employ 3,725, up from about 2,900 jobs in 2013. That's four times the national concentration of manufacturing jobs.

But the largest portion of the local manufacturing workforce falls in the 45 to 64 age group – 49 percent of the total. An

additional 2 percent are age 65 and over. Only 3 percent are in the 19 to 24 age group, and 40 percent, age 25 to 44.

The *Springfield News-Sun* quoted CEP Director Marcia Bailey, "We need these students, this younger workforce to fill the positions that will need to be filled. It's a huge, huge issue."

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Rothschild CEO Reports on Progress

CEP Director Marcia Bailey attended a Champaign County commissioners meeting in September at which Robert Rothschild Farm (RRF) CEO Andy Deister presented an update on the company's efforts to stay competitive in the gourmet foods market.

The City of Urbana and Champaign County, both CEP partners, worked with RRF to extend a sewer line to support the company's goal to maintain and grow production.

RRF has focused on improving product marketing, increasing manufacturing productivity and restructuring administration, bringing expenses in line with sales.

The *Urbana Daily Citizen* quoted Deister: "What that allows us to do is really focus our efforts now on our manufacturing and doubling down here in Urbana so no production or manufacturing or distribution jobs were affected. We're excited to be in partnership with the community here and we're looking to increase our presence and our emphasis here in Urbana."

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Brother and sister, Daniel and Shyann Lake of Triad High School, were among student ambassadors who staffed the Manufacturing Council/CEP booth at the Champaign County Fair.

Camp Introduces Kids to Manufacturing

The second annual Inventors Camp, held in August as part of the Champaign Family YMCA summer camp program, provided about 30 children an early introduction to manufacturing as a career path.

That's double the attendance last year, a sign of the camp's success in engaging campers, says Paul Waldsmith, YMCA CEO and CEP board member.

The Champaign County Manufacturing Human Resources Council developed Inventors Camp. Representatives from eight local companies participated, sharing what their companies make and how they got involved in manufacturing. And they helped campers make their own products. These companies included: Bundy Baking Solutions, The Hall Company, Honeywell, Hughey & Phillips, ORBIS, Robert Rothschild Farm, Sarica Manufacturing and WEIDMANN Electrical Technology.

Campers also visited a manufacturing lab for hands-on experience with high-tech equipment used in today's manufacturing facilities.

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Participating students were from Graham, Mechanicsburg, Urbana and Triad, which is in its second year of offering Ohio Hi-Point's Advanced Manufacturing program.

"Manufacturing Day allows students to see up close the exciting manufacturing career opportunities that are available in our community," said Jill O'Neal, human resources manager at WEIDMANN Electrical Technology in Urbana. O'Neal is a member of the Champaign County Manufacturing Human Resources Council, which helped plan the event, and is a CEP Board member.

Judy Fletcher, an Ohio Hi-Point Career Center teacher who teaches at Urbana High School, said, "Each company gave really good connections of academic skills to real jobs. I think there are many benefits to seeing the real-life application of skills learned in high school, especially math and science."

Manufacturers Join CEP at County Fair

More than 4,000 Champaign County Fair visitors in August gained a better understanding of the impact of manufacturing on Champaign County.

These fairgoers stopped by an exhibit coordinated for the third year by the Champaign County Manufacturers Council and CEP. The exhibit featured rotating displays of products made by 12 local companies. Products made by Inventors Camp participants also were displayed.

Representatives of the companies and student ambassadors from Champaign County schools helped the CEP staff the exhibit. A popular feature of the exhibit was a game wheel made by Triad vocational agriculture students. Visitors spun the wheel for a chance to answer questions about local manufacturers and win prizes.

"Many visitors said they always wondered what these companies made," says CEP Director Marcia Bailey. She added that some visitors asked about job openings and applications. The CEP also provided information on the agency's efforts to attract and grow business in Champaign County.

Companies that participated include RT Bundy, Honeywell, Johnson Welded Products, ORBIS, KTH Parts Industries, The Hall Company, WEIDMANN Electrical Technology, Sarica/Hughey & Phillips, Ultra-Met, Rittal and Robert Rothschild Farms.



Honeywell employees guide Urbana High School students through a manufacturing production exercise using Legos, as a videographer from WHIO TV captures the action. The event also received newspaper coverage.

CEP Helps Local Businesses Celebrate New Locations

This page features a sampling of new businesses that have recently opened in Champaign County. Please join the CEP in welcoming and supporting them. We wish them much success as they help make our county a better place to live. If you want to establish or expand a business in Champaign County, contact the CEP at 937-653-7200 or info@cepohio.com. We're here to help business grow in Champaign County.

HER Realtors

Located at 1501 S. U.S. 68, Urbana. Owned by Linda Harper. Provides realty services to Champaign County through several agents.



Wing Bar

Located at 1549 S. U.S. 68, Urbana. Owned by Kim and Mike Farley, with daughter



Amber Fraley-Weaver. Offers gourmet pizzas, hand-breaded wings, specialty cocktails and craft beers, served in the restaurant and, in season, on the patio, with live music.



Mary Rutan Hospital Clinic

Relocated to a more spacious building, 1880 E. U.S. 36, in front of Walmart. Offers expanded services including specialists in pediatrics, adult primary care, obstetrics and gynecology, general surgery, urology and orthopedics, as well as x-ray, full lab services and physical therapy.

Char's Market and Kitchen

Located at 146 S. Springfield St., St. Paris, and owned by Charlene Hess. Formerly The Bulk Barn, the store serves as a local market and includes a deli, sandwich and sub shop, and ice cream shop.



Mark Joseph Floral Design Studio

Mark Mefford sets out mums in front of his new business, Mark Joseph Floral Design Studio/H. Holding & Co., at 15 Monument Square, Urbana. His business features a variety of home decorations, gifts and the floral studio.

Mefford, former owner of Bill's Enchanted Florist, has been in business in downtown Urbana since age 19. He was quoted about downtown Urbana in the Springfield News-Sun: "It's only doing better and better. I've watched it change over 21 years with ups and down. I think right now it's only getting stronger. It's becoming a destination town, which is really nice."



Stitched with Care, LLC

Located at 1637 E. U.S. 36, Suite 9A, Urbana. Owned by Catherine Loeloff. Offers alterations and dry cleaning services.



Hall Named to Clark State Board



Kyle Hall

Kyle Hall, a CEP board member and president of the Hall Company in Urbana, was recently appointed to the Clark State Community College Board of Trustees by Governor John Kasich.

Clark State President Dr. Jo Alice Blon-din said, "Kyle Hall brings excellent industry and management expertise that will serve our students, and his skill set truly complements our board."

Hall said, "I'm excited by the steps Clark State has taken to partner with manufacturers and offer a wide curriculum of

skills to help improve manufacturing." He added, "There is a need in the workforce for additional skills and education that Clark State is very well suited to help with, and I'm excited to be a part of that."

The Hall Company is a global, technology firm that manufactures switches, controls and overlays for a variety of industries, including medical devices.

Hall, chairman of the Hall Company Board of Directors, is a member of the Champaign County Manufacturing Council and previously served on the boards of the Dayton Development Coalition and Champaign County Chamber of Commerce.

CEP Creating Economic Development 'Playbook'

Playbooks help athletic teams win.

And the Champaign Economic Partnership is developing a playbook to help businesses and Champaign County win. That is, to drive local economic development, and create more jobs.

As Champaign County's designated economic development agency, the CEP serves as the starting point for local business development. The CEP playbook, expected to be ready for use early next year, will serve as a guide to business development, providing information on resources and contacts critical to success.

It will cover real estate, zoning, building and sign regulations, infrastructure, workforce development, tax incentives for business and job development, finances, and local, regional and state economic development partners.

The CEP playbook will be posted on our website, CEPOhio.com. And as always, call us (937-653-7200) or email us (info@cepohio.com) when you need help establishing or growing your business.

CEP Holds Retreat to Plan for 2017

As the CEP nears completion of its first full year of operation, our 18-member Board of Trustees looked ahead to 2017 at a planning retreat.

The CEP board took stock of accomplishments to this point and worked on goals and budget for 2017. We'll also consider opportunities to expand the CEP partnership to strengthen Champaign County's competitiveness in attracting new business and growing existing business and jobs.

The CEP is funded by public partners, Champaign County and the City of Urbana, and private business partners, Pioneer Rural Electric and Dayton Power & Light. To strengthen local economic development, the CEP is looking for additional private sponsors to join the partnership.

About 30 percent of CEP's 18-member board consists of local government and public education representatives. The remainder represent the private sector: small business, manufacturing, human resources, agriculture, infrastructure, marketing, health/social services, Chamber of Commerce, commercial/retail, entertainment and the financial and legal professions.

Contact Us

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CEP Offers Skype as Meeting Option

The internet-based application Skype allows people in different locations to meet via computer – with audio and video – to eliminate the time and expense of travel.



CEP is offering Skype as an option for out-of-town and out-of-state business representatives so they can avoid travel for at least some meetings with local officials as they work toward establishing or expanding a business in Champaign County.

CEP Director Marcia Bailey said that she recently used Skype to facilitate a meeting for entrepreneurs who are interested in starting a local business. They had difficulty fitting multiple meetings in their schedule due to the four-hour roundtrip to Urbana.

Bailey said, "It worked great for all in attendance. What would have taken them six hours, including travel, took only two hours in a face-to-face meeting via Skype."

The CEP office is set up to accommodate Skype conferencing, in a quiet, confidential environment.