



FAME e-News – Winter 2014

- **From the Chair, Mike Mandina** (FAME Chair; President of Optimax Systems, Inc.)
FAME Members,

What a great few weeks for the Finger Lakes Region and those interested in workforce development! President Obama's State of the Union address brought visibility to the need to match worker skills with available jobs and the need for public/private partnerships. Then, on January 29, Vice President Biden came to Monroe Community College on his first stop to kick-off efforts to address this new challenge. MCC and the Finger Lakes Region were selected because of the effective partnerships we have formed over the years between industry, academia and government.

Certainly FAME was front and center because of the association FAME has established with Business Leaders United, a working group formed out of the National Skills Coalition. However it is important to note the at least three other organizations were instrumental in our region being recognized. The ongoing effectiveness of the RTMA (Rochester Technology and Manufacturing Association), the RRPC (Rochester Region Photonics Cluster) and the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council's Workforce Development Work Group were all complicit in this achievement. I was honored to introduce Vice President Biden at the MCC event and spend a few moments with him and his wife, Dr. Jill Biden, to emphasize the importance of partnerships, targeted training, and education.

On January 31, I was in Washington DC and fortunate enough to be one of three small business representatives among 30 publicly traded company CEOs. Secretary of Labor: Tony Perez, Secretary of Commerce: Penny Pritzker, and Director of the National Economic Council and Assistant to the President for Economic Policy: Gene Sperling, were all present and the meeting was run by President Obama and VP Biden. President Obama wanted a commitment from the CEOs that they were not discriminating against the long term unemployed. He cited a recent study that interviews were 50% less likely for anyone unemployed for eight months versus one month.

The group agreed to work to insure length of unemployment was not a factor, and offered other recommendations, including: transferable credentials, retooling skill sets, and more expedient access to One Stops. This small event was followed by a 300 person assembly addressed by the President where he formally authorized *\$150 Million for "Ready to Work" Partnerships That Support Innovative Public-Private Efforts to Help the Long-Term Unemployed Get a Fair Shot*. It is my understanding this will be a competitive grant competition through the Dept. of Labor to support and scale innovative partnerships among employers and non-profits across the country that are helping

prepare and place the long-term unemployed into good jobs.

As an outcome of this White House intensive week, I was able to meet the Vice President twice, and at the 2nd meeting he personally introduced me to President Obama. Further, I have semi-access to a number of administration staff, at least for the moment. Hopefully this visibility will help the region as our collaborations move forward!
Thank you,
Mike Mandina

- **FAME's Annual Event at MCC Brings Industry Partners and Educators Together!**
The Finger Lakes Advanced Manufacturers' Enterprise (FAME) was pleased to present Mr. Charlie Crumb, of the Technical Assistance Center of New York, at its annual industry/education event on January 22, 2014 at Monroe Community College. Mr. Crumb discussed career and technical education, and elements of New York State's new Common Core program, in an event attended by 160 industry representatives and educators. The scheduled keynote speaker, Mr. Andy VanKleunen of the National Skills Coalition, was unfortunately a victim of the coastal storm that closed airports from Boston to Washington DC. We thank Mr. Crumb for stepping in to provide a wonderful and informative talk to all of our attendees! For a link to the slides from Mr. Crumb's presentation, click [HERE](#)!



Featured speaker: Charlie Crumb, NYS CTE.



A crowd of 160 educators and industry partners filled the room at this year's event.

The event began with a networking session aimed at bringing educators and industry representatives together to discuss opportunities for students in middle skills CTE fields. Several speakers helped to reinforce the FAME message of the importance of business and educational organizations working together to promote opportunities in CTE for students of all ages. The event concluded with the presentation of this year's FAME **STAR** Award to Dr. Sam Samanta of FLCC. FAME's **STAR** Award recognizes individuals who have displayed leadership in developing innovative educational and training options and programs for advanced manufacturing and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields. The **STAR** Award recognizes **S**tudents, **T**eachers, and **A**dvanced Manufacturing **R**elationships in pursuit of FAME's goal to promote awareness of advanced manufacturing careers in the pipeline.



FAME Chair Mike Mandina (left) and 2014 STAR Award winner Dr. Sam Samanta of FLCC (right).



Dr. Samanta even had ICT pamphlets with him at the event - his enthusiasm is hard to resist!

Dr. Samanta was the academic champion to get the ICT program underway at Finger Lakes Community College. IC Tech, or Instrumentation and Control Technologies, is a new degree at FLCC that trains students in knowledge and skills that are in short supply among Finger Lakes area manufacturers. Sam has an internship program built into the curriculum and all students must participate in it. He is also currently working on a one year certificate program. Dr. Samanta has been a staunch FAME supporter and member since its inception and has developed the curriculum with an advisory board of FAME business members. Sam's passion for his program, his students and FAME shines through in all of his efforts!

For a complete review of the event, and additional photos and information, please visit: http://www.nyfame.org/NationalSkillsPolicyEventJan22_2014.asp

- **Many thanks to our FAME members who sponsored US FIRST LEGO teams for the Fall 2013 competition season!**
 - **Canandaigua Middle School**, sponsored by **Precision Grinding & Mfg Corp.** and **ITT Goulds Pumps**
 - **Pal-Mac Middle School**, sponsored by **OptiPro Systems**
 - **Wayne CSD's Ontario Elementary School**, sponsored by **Harbec Plastics**, **Optimax Systems**, and **OptiPro Systems**

In additional US FIRST LEGO news, **Seneca Falls Middle School's** US FIRST LEGO team (wholly sponsored by FAME member **ITT Goulds Pumps**), advanced to the next level of competition, and out of 36 teams that participated in this year's Finger Lakes Championship Tournament at the University of Rochester in December, their team *The Geek Squad* came in 3rd place for Robot Performance! *The Geek Squad* received an invitation to the North American Open Championship Tournament in Carlsbad, California in May 2014. FAME members **ITT Goulds Pumps** and the **Seneca County IDA**, along with FAME, have contributed donations in support of the team's trip to California. If you are interested in helping the team meet their travel expenses, please contact Michele Stolberg at FAME for more information, email: fame@nyfame.org

For a complete overview of the Fall 2013 US FIRST LEGO season, please visit:

http://www.nyfame.org/sponsorship_opportunities.asp

- **News from FAME's Pipeline and Hiring & Training Committees**

A joint meeting of FAME's Pipeline and Hiring & Training Committees was held on Friday, January 10th at TCTI in Victor. Minutes are available at the following weblink:

[http://www.nyfame.org/documents/1-10-](http://www.nyfame.org/documents/1-10-14JointPipelineandHiringTrainingCommitteeMeetingMinutes.pdf)

[14JointPipelineandHiringTrainingCommitteeMeetingMinutes.pdf](http://www.nyfame.org/documents/1-10-14JointPipelineandHiringTrainingCommitteeMeetingMinutes.pdf) and a link to the MS

PowerPoint slides presented by Hiscock & Barclay on labor laws are available at:

<http://www.nyfame.org/documents/FAMEPipelineandHiringTrainingmeetingPowerpoint2014-01-10.pdf>

The most recent meeting of the FAME Pipeline Committee was on February 21, 2014 at TCTI (7424 Victor Mendon Rd. Victor, NY 14564). Minutes will be available soon. The new Pipeline video on advanced manufacturing careers is almost complete! The next meeting of the FAME Pipeline Committee will take place on April 4th, details are below. Please RSVP to Eileen Rucinski (at email: emr5552@gmail.com) to attend. The next meeting of the FAME Hiring & Training Committee will take place in the Spring of 2014.

- **Does your organization have a Twitter account?**

Follow FAME on Twitter today: **@NY_FAME** Re-tweet our messages for maximum impact! This effort will not only support FAME locally, but will also send the message to your followers that your firm is active in building a future for our workforce and advanced manufacturing community. Thank you!

- **FAME member TCTI announces recently completed training facility**

In October 2013, FAME member TCTI opened a new facility in Victor that offers in-house training courses, primarily focused on the CNC machine industry, but also offers the use of the classrooms and seminar hall for any business or individual that wants to rent out the space for their own training program or business event. The company was founded by Kevin Lootens, president and owner of CNC Technical Services, Inc., a company occupying space in the same location that provides repair service and parts for the CNC industry. As CNCTS grew, the need for qualified service personnel grew as well. While being in such a niche industry cuts down on the number of competitors, it also creates its own problems in trying to recruit people. *"The need for qualified personnel in our particular field is enormous" says Kevin, "The reality is that there are very few people aware of the need and even less pursuing a career in this field. The initial objective with TCTI was to just create some space in our facility to provide some formal training for our apprentice candidates and to assist our customers with basic service training. As it began to unfold, it became apparent that our customers also have needs similar to ours, but not necessarily in the service aspect of the industry. They expressed their needs for machine operators, programmers, QC personnel, etc. and as such, we started to re-think how we wanted to approach the training and thus it evolved*

into a much bigger undertaking than we originally anticipated.”

To see the full story on TCTI, visit:

<http://www.nyfame.org/documents/TCTIMemberSpotlight.pdf>

- **Update from FLWIB Advanced Manufacturing Career Navigator, Bill Rotenberg**
Important Announcement. The Advanced Manufacturing Career Pathways Grant has been expanded to include one year certificate programs that can be completed by the Spring of 2015. Although the grant is in its last year for participants to complete their AS or AAS degrees, the New York State and United States Departments of Labor have agreed to include funding for existing one year certificate programs. The programs that currently qualify are *Genesee Community College’s Computerized Design & Drafting* and *Monroe Community College’s Precision Machining and Optical Systems Technology Certificate* programs. All programs need to be completed by the Spring of 2015 but this expansion allows yet another opportunity for local job seekers to be trained in the field of Advanced Manufacturing. Contact Bill Rotenberg at amcn@fingerlakesworks.com or (315)-789-3131 extension 105 for more information.
- **Congratulations to FAME member REDCOM for the recent completion of their new High Speed SMT Assembly Line!**
Signaling a long-term commitment to its Electronics Manufacturing Services (EMS) and Custom Manufacturing businesses, REDCOM Laboratories Inc. has announced the completion of a new high-speed Surface Mount Technology (SMT) assembly line. Located at company headquarters in Victor, NY, the new line comprises state-of-the-art assembly and inspection equipment along with the latest-generation of on-line New Product Introduction (NPI) and performance monitoring tools, all tied together on a dedicated network. The line will deliver substantial efficiency gains not only in the actual assembly process (assembling and inspecting Printed Circuit Board Assemblies—PCBAs), but also in component placement programming and line set-up. To see the full story, visit: <http://www.redcom.com/media/press-releases/redcom-electronics-manufacturing-services-completes-integration/>
- **Join FAME’s LinkedIn group for timely updates!**
Stay up-to-date on the most current advanced manufacturing workforce news! Join FAME’s LinkedIn group today at the following link:
http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=2889557&trk=hb_side_g
- **News you can use:**
NYATEP’s Workforce Buzz: A Conversation With... Mike Mandina, President of Optimax Systems.
<http://www.nyatep.org/files/public/ConversationwithMandinaOptimax022014.pdf>

Lasting Impact: A Business Leader’s Playbook for Supporting America’s Schools.
<http://www.hbs.edu/competitiveness/pdf/lasting-impact.pdf>

Partial Credit: How America's School Superintendents See Business as a Partner.
<http://www.hbs.edu/competitiveness/pdf/partial-credit.pdf>

BLU leader (and FAME Chair) Mike Mandina Introduces VP Biden, a transcript of his comments at MCC.
<http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/homepage-archive/blu-leader-mike-mandina.html>

Success in the New Economy – an eye-opening video with corresponding data on the value of pursuing a two year degree or certificate.
<http://vimeo.com/67277269>

Manufacturing Education: A National Priority.
http://www.sme.org/uploadedFiles/Publications/ME_Magazine/2013/July_2013/July%202013%20f3%20Workforce.pdf

- **Upcoming meetings and events:**

- *FAME Pipeline Committee Meeting*
April 4, 8:00-10:00AM; Location: Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES, Williamson
contact: Eileen Rucinski, e-mail: emr5552@gmail.com
- *MCC High-Tech Exploration Night*
March 19, 6:30PM-9:00PM; Location: Monroe Community College, R. Thomas Flynn Campus Center, Monroe A & B
event link: <http://www.monroecc.edu/depts/teched/hightechexpo/>

Thank you for your support of FAME!
Michele Stolberg

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