



FAME e-News – Spring 2014

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

It is truly incredible how visible the skills gap has become to all levels of government and community. The work of FAME and its membership has had a hand in this campaign both locally and nationally. Let's build on this momentum. This is the time of year when we call upon all manufacturing employers to do the thing that has the greatest impact: **HIRE A HIGH SCHOOL KID FOR A SUMMER JOB!**

And I'm not talking just talking about the school's next valedictorian. The best hires are the kids who have demonstrated the capacity to work with their minds and their hands. This tendency becomes apparent in hobbies and other outside of school interests.

At Optimax we have learned empirically that a high percentage of our summer employees end up picking careers in technology and manufacturing as an outcome of the summer work experience. Optimax gains in the long run because we end up hiring more than 20% of the youth at some point in their future working careers. We also gain in the short-run because these kids work! They learn quickly and do good work. Our workforce benefits because they enjoy teaching and developing youth and in most cases, the established workforce's productivity actually increases.

During a typical summer 5 to 10 % Optimax's workforce are high school and college students. This year we have a goal of filling 16 summer youth jobs. So far we have 6 positions filled. My hope is all FAME industry members (and other manufacturers) will be doing the same thing.

Thank you!

Mike Mandina

- **MCC had its largest turnout ever for the Annual High Tech Exploration Night on March 19, 2014!**

607 students, parents and educators attended this year's event, and 30 different companies representing Optics, Advanced Manufacturing, Electronics and IT helped make the night a success. Many of the companies who participated were FAME members. Thanks to a large sponsorship from Corning, MCC was able to do a broader marketing campaign including 10 days of ads on some of the major radio stations in the area. MCC had a much larger number of younger, middle school age students attend this year – great news for the pipeline of future AM workers! Company reps said they were excited and very engaged. This is a good push to help kids start thinking of these opportunities early. Bill Rotenberg, still representing FAME and the FLWIB at the time,

said many people inquired about the Advanced Manufacturing grant at the FAME table he had set up. Bill has now moved on to a new position at MCC, as Director of the Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-Tech) program. We wish him the best with his future endeavors!

- **From the FLREDC Workforce Group:**

Are you looking for part-time student workers to augment your IT department? The Workforce Development Information Technology team, partnering with Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection, can help you find students for your IT Ops team (PC Support, Help Desk) or IT Dev team (development, QA/QE). If you'd like to know more, please email Laurent Fontanel at fontanel@corp.earthlink.com and Chris Kunz at ckunz@hillside.com.

Thank you!

- **News from FAME's Pipeline Committee**

FAME's Pipeline Committee most recently met on April 4th at the Wayne FL BOCES in Williamson. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Middle School Skills Competition, which featured 8th graders competing in different skill sets including metal work, woodworking, auto body, cosmetology, animal services, etc. Minutes are available at the following weblink: <http://www.nyfame.org/documents/4-4-14PipelineCommitteeMeetingMinutes.pdf>

The new Pipeline video on advanced manufacturing careers is almost complete! Stay tuned for an announcement of its availability. The next meeting of the FAME Pipeline Committee will take place on May 16th at Silgan Containers, Lyons, NY. Please RSVP to Eileen Rucinski (email: amcn@fingerlakesworks.com) to attend.

- **Looking for a way to make a difference in our industry? Hire an intern in your company this summer!**

As the school year draws to a close, we would like to take a moment to thank the FAME member companies who employed 70 summer interns in 2013! Ranging in fields from engineering, assembly, IT, quality, tool crib technicians, and parts washers to marketing, purchasing and supply chain efforts—these companies have truly brought a focus and exposure to the field of advanced manufacturing through their efforts to expose youth to future career paths. Representing a combination of high school and college students, many of these interns returned to their host companies during school breaks, and some have been offered the opportunity of potential full time employment when they graduate.

FAME would like to thank the following member manufacturers for their contribution to the Pipeline effort: **CCMI Inc., Gorbel Inc., GW Lisk, Harbec Plastics, ITT Goulds Pumps, Optimax Systems Inc., OptiPro Systems Inc., and Sydor Optics Inc.** Why not follow their example, and open your doors to a student this summer?

- **MCC's mobile labs will link education to career pathways**

Beginning in June, the Multiple Pathways to Middle Skills Jobs project, led by MCC, will expose at-risk high school students and displaced workers to careers in health care, advanced manufacturing and skilled trades in an effort to fulfill the region's critical need for middle-skill workers. In partnership with school districts, workforce investment boards, industry groups and employers, MCC will provide career exploration and simulation in three mobile simulation labs – one dedicated to each of the targeted industries. Seneca Waterways Council and Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection will be among the first groups to embed the training within their programs.

The labs are 24-foot trailers that will simulate aspects of the real-world work environment and will be equipped with technologies and materials related to each sector. The goal of the project is to create seamless pathways that link careers to high school education and community college programs. It aims to provide career exploration and simulation to 2,500 students over a two year period.

- **Thank you FAME members! -- from Monroe 2 BOCES**

Monroe 2 BOCES and Churchville-Chili Central School would like to thank the following FAME companies for their reverse engineering assembly donations: **Chapin International, QED Technologies, Gunlocke, Gorbel, and REDCOM**. Through the support of these five FAME companies, and eleven other local companies, we were able to exceed our goal of twenty-five donations. During this assignment, students discovered how the assembly is utilized and assembled. Students made use of 3-D design software and calipers to complete this project. Most importantly they have been exposed to viable industries that exist in WNY!

- **News from FAME's Hiring & Training Committee**

The next meeting of the FAME Hiring & Training Committee will take place in the Summer of 2014, once a new chair for the committee is found. Ron Golumbeck of ITT Goulds Pumps, who had chaired the committee for several years, recently retired. We wish Ron all the best in retirement, and thank him for his many years of effort on behalf of FAME and its mission!

- **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!

- **Update from FLWIB Advanced Manufacturing Career Navigator, Eileen Rucinski**

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 Eileen Rucinski at amcn@fingerlakesworks.com or (315)-789-3131 extension 105 for more information.

- **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:**

Report: Out of Inventory, Skills Shortage Threatens Growth for US Manufacturing

<http://www.themanufacturinginstitute.org/Research/Skills-and-Training-Study/~media/70965D0C4A944329894C96E0316DF336.ashx>

7 Things Attracting the Youth to American Manufacturing

http://www.mfrtech.com/news/477522/7_things_attracting_the_youth_to_american_manufacturing.html?p=2

No Longer the Stepchild of U.S. Education, Community Colleges Fill a Vital Need for Skilled Workers

http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2014-05-07/no-longer-the-stepchild-of-u-dot-s-dot-education-community-colleges-fill-a-vital-need-for-skilled-workers#r=nav-r-blog?utm_source=&utm_medium=&utm_campaign

Job Training Shifts to 'Middle Skills' to Put Millennials Back to Work

<http://www.njspotlight.com/stories/14/05/06/job-training-shifts-to-middle-skills-to-put-millennials-back-to-work/?p=all>

How Veterans Could Help Manufacturing Fix The Skills Gap.

<http://www.manufacturing.net/articles/2014/04/how-veterans-could-help-manufacturing-fix-the-skills-gap>

Jobs await FLCC-G.W. Lisk machinist graduates

<http://fingerlakescommunitycollege.blogspot.com/2014/03/jobs-await-flcc-gw-lisk-machinist.html#more>

Back efforts to close Rochester's skills gap

<http://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/opinion/editorials/2014/04/09/back-efforts-close-rochesters-skills-gap/7476443/>

- **Upcoming meetings and events:**

- *FAME Pipeline Committee Meeting*
May 16, 8:30-10:30AM; Location: Silgan Containers Corporation, Lyons
contact: Eileen Rucinski, e-mail: amcn@fingerlakesworks.com

- *Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council Meeting*
May 21, 10:00AM-12:00Noon; Location: Monroe Community College, R. Thomas
Flynn Campus Center, Monroe A & B
register to attend: <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/flredc-meeting-05212014>

Thank you for your support of FAME!

Michele Stolberg

FAME Facilitator

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Check out our website! www.nyfame.org

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