



FAME e-News - April 2011

- **From the Chair, Mike Mandina** (FAME Chair and President of Optimax Systems Inc.)
As New York readies itself for recovery from the national recession, our state and federal leaders must look ahead to the next generation of industries—and it's the jobs in the middle that will be critical in the Rochester area. *New York's Forgotten Middle-Skill Jobs* (links below), a new report released by the Skills2Compete-New York campaign and the National Skills Coalition, predicts that middle-skill jobs will account for nearly one million job openings by 2018, representing some 40 percent of all job openings across the state. This category of jobs, which requires more than a high school diploma but less than a four-year degree, accounts for nearly half of all current jobs in New York and includes such well-paying professions as construction workers, high-tech manufacturing workers and nurses/health care technicians. While these openings signal opportunities to boost Rochester's economic competitiveness, the reality is that too many residents do not have the proper education and skills to fill them.

In Rochester, the advanced manufacturing sector is growing, and even in this slow economy, we are seeing a shortage of qualified employees. As our economy recovers and Rochester firms compete in the global market space, we will require a workforce with the skills and industry certifications to keep our companies on the cutting edge. The Skills2Compete-New York campaign calls on state leaders to embrace a strong vision that will prepare our workforce for the jobs of the future. Every resident should have access to the equivalent of at least two years of education or training past high school—leading to a vocational credential, industry certification, or an associate degree.

Federal funding for these efforts has become increasingly challenging. The President recently proposed an 8 percent reduction in federal support for workforce training in his 2012 budget proposal, and a proposal passed by the House eliminates federal workforce training altogether, threatening to dismantle the state's public workforce system. While New York's federal policymakers need to take a stand in Washington, we cannot wait for federal policy to catch-up with demand. As advanced manufacturers in NYS, we need to take proactive steps to train more New Yorkers for the middle-skill jobs that will continue to emerge as the economic recovery takes hold.

FAME is working to attract and grow a strong advanced manufacturing workforce in our local nine county area. Monroe Community College and Finger Lakes Community College, both partnered with FAME, provide programs to help students earn critical two-year degrees or other industry credentials, creating a pipeline of workers to meet increasing local demand for a skilled, high-tech workforce. Advanced manufacturing firms can assist in this effort, raising the visibility of middle-skill job needs in our area by offering summer employment opportunities, internships, apprenticeships and facility tours. By fostering an awareness of the job opportunities available, and the real need our sector is experiencing, we can encourage potential and future workers to train and retrain for the skills they need to fill the gaps.

Thank you,
Mike Mandina

- **Act now to prepare for Summer Internships!**
 The Finger Lakes Internship Program at the FLWIB specializes in introducing talented, top-notch students to local employers for paid internship opportunities. For more information on the program, please visit their website at www.fingerlakesinternship.com or call Linda Cunningham, Finger Lakes Internship Coordinator, at (315) 789-3131.
- **New FAME student tours initiative!**
 In an effort to introduce students and their parents to advance manufacturing opportunities in the Finger Lakes region, FAME has started an initiative to offer tours of local advanced manufacturing sites. At the recent MCC High Tech Expo and FLCC Instrumentation & Control Technologies Careers Panel, exhibiting FAME member companies took the names and emails of students and families interested in participating in advanced manufacturing facility tours. The tours will be offered in the weekday late afternoon/evening or on Saturday mornings. We had a total of 50 students and families sign-up to take advantage of this opportunity! In the next several weeks we will be contacting FAME member companies to arrange site tours for students. We would like to offer tours in various locations and industries across the nine county area. If you are willing to have students come in for a tour, and to speak with them about careers in advanced manufacturing, please contact Michele Stolberg at FAME (email: fame@nyfame.org). Thank you!
- **FAME Senior Executive/CEO event at Mario's April 14th**
 FAME's Senior Executive/CEO Networking Event on April 14th was well attended, and company representatives stayed well after the scheduled 7:30pm close. We had over 35 registered attendees, including Todd Oldham (MCC's VP Economic Development and Innovative Workforce Services) who just came on board at Monroe Community College in this new position. Our speaker, Don Mazzullo, a partner at Harter, Secrest & Emery, provided interesting insights into the ongoing changes in Albany and funding opportunities for enhancing skilled workforce development.
- **FAME Industry/Academia Roundtables – a resounding success!**
 FAME's recent Industry/Academia Roundtables at FLCC, MCC and GCC have done a remarkable job of bringing the needs of the advanced manufacturing industry together with contacts in degree and certificate programs that can help us meet the needs of future workforce requirements! Look for a report in the May 2011 e-News detailing discussion topics and industry needs, and plan to attend the final event on May 12th at Wayne/Finger Lakes BOCES in Williamson (details below in Upcoming Events).
- **Join FAME's LinkedIn group!**
 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:**

"New York's Forgotten Middle-Skill Jobs" – Nat'l Skills Coalition, Mar 2011."
http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/assets/reports-/skills2compete_forgottenjobs_ny_2011.pdf

"Skills2Compete – New York" - Nat'l Skills Coalition, Mar 2011."

http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/assets/reports-/s2c-ny_platform_2011-03.pdf

“Pathways to Prosperity” – Harvard study.

http://www.gse.harvard.edu/news_events/features/2011/Pathways_to_Prosperty_Feb2011.pdf

“America is still No. 1 in Manufacturing.”

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/america-is-still-no-1-in-manufacturing-2011-03-04>

“NBC News – American Worker Retools with New Skills.”

https://21stcenturyapprenticeship.workforce3one.org/view/NBCs_Tom_Brokaws_Report_on_MAG/info

“Exciting American Youth About Manufacturing, Blog: Maybe it's time to think about a ‘Future Manufacturers of America’ organization.”

http://www.industryweek.com/articles/exciting_american_youth_about_manufacturing_24286.aspx

“Senators Brown and Snowe, Representatives Loeb sack and Platts Introduce Legislation to Better Target Federal Training Dollars.”

<http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/homepage-archive/2011-sectors-introduced.html>

- **Upcoming meetings and events:**

- *FAME Pipeline Committee Meeting*

Friday, May 6 – 8:00-10:00AM, Location: Lyons National Bank – Macedon location

contact: Eileen Rucinski, email: rucinem@kellyservices.com

- *FAME Hiring & Training Committee Meeting*

Thursday, May 12 – 8:00-10:00AM, Location: Wayne/FL BOCES, Williamson; Room: TBD

contact: Michele Stolberg, email: fame@nyfame.org

- *Wayne/FL BOCES Career Fair*

Thursday, May 19 – 9:00-11:00AM, Location: Williamson, NY

contact: Pete Boldt, email: pboldt@wflboces.org or via phone: (315) 589-2600

- **Welcome new FAME members!**

- Advantage Manufacturing Corp.

- CCMI Inc.

- Wayne County IDA

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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