



FAME e-News – Fall 2013

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

The move towards applied learning and preparing youth for entering the workforce continues to gain momentum. School districts all over the Greater Rochester Region are beginning to reach out to engage employers in the learning process. Yes, even advanced manufacturers are being called on for participation. Interestingly enough, the request for financial donations are minimal, what we are seeing are increased requests for tours or sending representatives for planning meetings.

Please meet with your team and determine your commitment to supporting this exposure of tomorrow's workforce to your enterprise. An industry tour by youth, teachers and parents is a powerful first step towards career selection. Making these experiences available is a key persuasive element that manufacturers control. Each young person who tours is a potential employee. This is your opportunity to emphasize the importance of personal accountability, team work and problem solving directly to youth and those that help direct their choices.

Having the pre-requisite soft and technical skills integrated into their learning will help satisfy some of the most prevalent complaints I hear from manufacturers.

Administrations are listening like they have never listened before, please welcome them and work with them. If you are looking for help to connect and would like to know how, please contact FAME. We are pleased to assist.

Thank you,

Mike Mandina

- **Save the date for FAME's Annual Event – January 22, 2014**
New National Skills Policy: Why Local Partnerships like FAME Make a Difference!
This year's FAME Annual Event will take place on Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at Monroe Community College, and will feature **Keynote speaker Andy Van Kleunen, Executive Director of the National Skills Coalition**. Registration will begin at 3:30pm, the event will run from 4:00-6:00pm and a short networking opportunity will follow. Make sure to save the date on your calendar today!
- ***Finger Lakes Works ... With Their Hands* event a resounding success in 2013!**
This year's *Finger Lakes Works ... With Their Hands!* event was held at Rodman Lott & Son Farms in Seneca Falls on October 3, 2013. With over 600 high school students representing 30 school groups from the four Finger Lakes counties, this event once again proved to be a popular and engaging on-site learning opportunity for all who

attended. For the first time ever, each Finger Lakes high school had a group in attendance, as well as two BOCES districts and a home school group! There was a full house for our FAME exhibitor building, including advanced manufacturing exhibitors **Gorbel, GW Lisk, IEC Electronics, ITT Goulds, Optimax Systems, and FLCC's Instrumentation and Controls** program and science demo, *Physics Is Fun!* Student attendees and chaperones, exhibitors, volunteers and visitors put the total attendance number at about 1,000 people! Congratulations to the Finger Lakes Works staff for hosting another successful event!

FLCC produced a terrific video of the event, available on *YouTube* at the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDXPFWDw1TI>

FLCC also published a review of the event on their *FLCC Connects* blog spot, web link: <http://flccconnects.blogspot.com/2013/10/flcc-helps-high-schoolers-get-glimpse.html>

- **Finger Lakes STEM Hub Event “STEM Careers for the 21st Century” scheduled for October 25th**

The Finger Lakes STEM Hub will present its first Fall Conference on Friday, October 25th at the Rochester Museum and Science Center: *STEM Careers for the 21st Century, Connecting STEM Curriculum to STEM Careers in the Finger Lakes Region*. The event features morning tours at advanced manufacturing facilities, including FAME members **Gorbel, GW Lisk, Optimax Systems and Southco**. The event continues at the RMSC at 10:30am with a Opening Address featuring Johanna Duncan Poitier and Anne Kress on STEM initiatives of SUNY, Rochester Area Colleges and the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council. Afternoon sessions feature speakers from BOCES, FLCC, GCC, area school districts, and industry.

For complete information, visit: <http://www.empirestem-fl.org/Home%20page/fall-conference>

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

The most recent meeting of the FAME Pipeline Committee was held on Friday, October 18th at Palmyra-Macedon High School. Minutes are not yet available. The previous meeting of the Pipeline Committee was held on August 23, 2013 at Monroe Community College's Advanced Technology Center. Meeting minutes are available at the following weblink: <http://www.nyfame.org/documents/FAMEPipelineCommitteeMeeting8-23-13.pdf>

Pipeline is busily planning events for the 2013/2014 school year, including a new advanced manufacturing careers presentation, with a video to accompany it! Many thanks to the following FAME members who have contributed video footage: **GW Lisk, OptiPro Systems, Parlec, Rochester Precision Optics**. Please contact Eileen Rucinski with any committee questions, email: rucinem@kellyservices.com

- **Call for Nominations for FAME's 2014 STAR Award!**

FAME is requesting your input on nominees for its 2014 STAR Award (**S**tudents, **T**eachers, **A**dvanced manufacturing, **R**elationships) that is presented at our annual event

in January at MCC. Last year's recipient was Paul Conrow, a teacher at Rochester CSD's East High School. Paul was recognized for his efforts to secure funds to build an ophthalmic lab at East, and his further willingness to work with employers and add a precision optics manufacturing lab to the East High environment, engaging students in both types of manufacturing technology. Both programs are up and running, and kids are learning theory and application. Their prospects for further academic achievement and/or employment after high school are greatly enhanced and Paul also gained college accreditation from MCC for his optics fabrication course.

In 2014, FAME is further expanding the nominee pool to educators or industry members 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 2014 award will be presented at FAME's annual event at MCC on January 22. For a nomination form, and specifics on nomination criteria, please visit FAME's website at the following link:

<http://www.nyfame.org/documents/2014STARAwardsubmissionformFINAL.doc>

Nominations are due by **January 1, 2014** to Michele Stolberg at FAME, e-mail: fame@nyfame.org

- **FAME members contribute to the success of *Manufacturing Day* on October 4th!**
October 4th was celebrated as national Manufacturing Day in the United States. In our own region, over thirty manufacturing facilities and educational partners offered a variety of on-site experiences and opportunities for students, teachers, parents, counselors and industry partners. FAME is proud to report that one third of the participating facilities in our nine county region were FAME members, including a free screening of the "American Made Movie" by **FLCC** that featured an AM industry panel! Participating panelists included **ITT Goulds Pumps** in Seneca Falls, Seneca County; **New Scale Technologies** in Victor, Ontario County; and **OptiPro Systems** and **Optimax Systems**, both in Ontario, Wayne County. FAME members who opened their doors for facility tours included: **Coach & Equipment, Commodore Technology, Drasgow, Harbec, IEC Electronics, Optimax Systems, OptiPro Systems, and Sydor Optics**. Thank you to the FAME members who helped make this day a success!
- **Update from FAME's Hiring & Training Committee**
FAME's Hiring & Training Committee recently met on September 13, 2013 at the FLCC Newark facility. Meeting minutes are available at the following weblink: <http://www.nyfame.org/documents/FAMEHiring-TrainingMinutes09-13-13.pdf>
The next meeting of the Hiring & Training Committee is scheduled for November 15th at 8:00AM in the Training Room of MCC's Economic & Workforce Development Center (1057 East Henrietta Rd, Rochester). The featured speaker will be Cortney Harris from MCC who will give a presentation on the TAACCCT grant. To attend, please contact Michele at FAME, email: fame@nyfame.org

- **Update from FLWIB Advanced Manufacturing Career Navigator, Bill Rotenberg**
The last group of students who have 2 full years to complete their AS or AAS degrees started school this September. We look forward to our first cohort of graduates to complete their programs in the Spring of 2014 at which time they will be available to start their careers in Advanced Manufacturing. I have also been working with the FAME Pipeline Committee on a pilot project that will involve over 200 East Irondequoit Middle School students visiting three of our FAME companies, **Optimax Systems, Optipro Systems, and Harbec**. Thank you to those companies for hosting this project. Students will write essays reflecting on their experience and follow-up activities have been planned to reinforce the message of the importance of skilled trades and middle skills career tracks.

Through a collaborative effort with the Finger Lakes STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Hub, over 120 local educators will be visiting FAME members **Gorbel, GW Lisk, Optimax Systems, and Southco**, as well as Liberty Pumps and The Gleason Works, on October 25th as part of a regional educators' conference highlighting STEM skills and technical careers. For more information on any of these programs, please contact Bill via email at: amcn@fingerlakesworks.com or at the Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board (315)789-3131 ext. 105.

- **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:**

Want Jobs? Try Advanced Manufacturing

<http://www.american.com/archive/2013/may/want-jobs-try-advanced-manufacturing>

'Made in USA' on the rise as manufacturing costs drop

<http://www.nbcnews.com/business/made-usa-rise-manufacturing-costs-drop-8C11022215>

The U.S. Skills Gap: Could It Threaten a Manufacturing Renaissance?

https://www.bcgperspectives.com/content/articles/lean_manufacturing_us_skills_gap_could_threaten_manufacturing_renaissance/

Help Wanted: Local Mfrs Have Jobs They Can't Fill Because of Skills Gap

http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2013/09/skills_gap.html?goback=.gde_114989_member_273518911#incart_rivercomments

Manufacturing Hope: Optimax's Realistic Optimist

<http://www.hitachifoundation.org/news-a-views/thf-blog/470-manufacturing-day-feature-q-a-a-with-mike-mandina-of-optimax-systems-inc->

- **Upcoming meetings and events:**

- *Finger Lakes STEM Hub Conference*
October 25, all day event; Location: Rochester Museum and Science Center
weblink: <http://www.empirestem-fl.org/Home%20page/fall-conference>
- *FAME Hiring & Training Committee Meeting*
November 15, 8:00-10:00AM; Location: MCC Economic & Workforce
Development Center
contact: Michele Stolberg, e-mail: fame@nyfame.org
- *FAME Annual Event: Driving a New National Skills Policy: Why Local Partnerships like FAME Make a Difference!*
January 22, 2014, 4:00-6:30pm; Monroe Community College
contact: Michele Stolberg, e-mail: fame@nyfame.org

- **Welcome new FAME members!**

- TCTI, Inc. <http://tctivictoryny.org>

Thank you for your support of FAME!
Michele Stolberg

FAME Facilitator
Email: fame@nyfame.org
Check out our website! www.nyfame.org
Phone# 315-521-7826