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Letter: Creating career pathways

Published: Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 12:01 a.m.

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The manufacturing industry is facing a major skilled workforce shortage. It is estimated that over the next decade, 2 million manufacturing jobs in America will go unfilled due to manufacturers' inability to find talent with the required skills.

At Florida Advanced Technological Education Center of Excellence, we are dedicated to increasing student awareness of good jobs and great career pathways in the many local manufacturing companies as well as the educational options to prepare for those careers.

This widening skills gap dramatically underscores the importance of the fourth annual Manufacturing Day, Oct. 2, when an estimated 2,000 events will take place in factories and plants across the country to introduce people to the significant role played by manufacturing, including right here in Central Florida.

Here is a day to replace mystery with awe and excitement – to show a whole new generation of kids how cool manufacturing is – and an opportunity to show their parents the exciting kind of work that takes place in manufacturing plants.

In partnership with many local organizations we are arranging student "Made in Florida" tours at manufacturing facilities, during which many companies provide lunch and sponsor commemorative T-shirts for MFG DAY in Florida. We will emphasize the importance of manufacturing to the U.S. economy and showcase the rewarding, highly skilled jobs available.

FLATE provides resources to the tour hosts as well as teachers to provide the maximum impact during the student visits.

Many manufacturers will be participating in Manufacturing Day as sponsors, hosting open houses, public tours, career



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workshops and other events. More information is available at www.MFGDAY.com.

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<p>The manufacturing industry is facing a major skilled workforce shortage. It is estimated that over the next decade, 2 million manufacturing jobs in America will go unfilled due to manufacturers' inability to find talent with the required skills.</p><p>At Florida Advanced Technological Education Center of Excellence, we are dedicated to increasing student awareness of good jobs and great career pathways in the many local manufacturing companies as well as the educational



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options to prepare for those careers.<p><p>This widening skills gap dramatically underscores the importance of the fourth annual Manufacturing Day, Oct. 2, when an estimated 2,000 events will take place in factories and plants across the country to introduce people to the significant role played by manufacturing, including right here in Central Florida.</p><p>Here is a day to replace mystery with awe and excitement – to show a whole new generation of kids how cool manufacturing is – and an opportunity to show their parents the exciting kind of work that takes place in manufacturing plants.</p><p>In partnership with many local organizations we are arranging student “Made in Florida” tours at manufacturing facilities, during which many companies provide lunch and sponsor commemorative T-shirts for MFG DAY in Florida. We will emphasize the importance of manufacturing to the U.S. economy and showcase the rewarding, highly skilled jobs available.</p><p>FLATE provides resources to the tour hosts as well as teachers to provide the maximum impact during the student visits.</p><p>Many manufacturers will be participating in Manufacturing Day as sponsors, hosting open houses, public tours, career workshops and other events. More information is available at www.MFGDAY.com.</p><p>These tours are not just informational. It's a way to encourage today's youth to consider careers in manufacturing to inspire the next generation of engineers, builders and inventors.</p><p>It's a way for manufacturers to convey their passion for what they do, and so young people can see for themselves that jobs in this industry are interesting, challenging and creative.</p><p>Marilyn Barger</p><p>Executive Director</p><p>Florida Advanced Technological Education Center of Excellence</p><p>Tampa</p>

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Molly Jones

Until we just read this excellent we were not aware that this program existed....what a wonderful way of introducing folks to our industries and perhaps resonating with a youthful person who is undecided on what way to proceed in his/her future!

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