October is Manufacturing Month!

The need for “Skilled” Industrial Machine Repair Workers

Industrial Maintenance Repair requires broad skills. This 20-week program includes courses in Blueprint Reading/Schematics, Pneumatics/Hydraulics, DC/AC, Intro to Industrial Controls, Workplace Safety MSSC, Torque Applications among others and will result in the equivalent of one year of the Industrial Mechanical Technician Associate Degree. In the IMR Boot Camp students learn foundational, troubleshooting, and problem solving skills.

“If you produce something you need to fix it,” says Dan Neuman. The emergence of new industries--such as wind turbine technology--require maintenance professionals with new high-tech skills.

“There is a shortage of highly skilled maintenance people and they need more new faces,” says Dan. If you ask people what maintenance is many think of the jump suits and carts on wheels, and of industry in past centuries, but these positions are becoming very technical and require understanding the operator’s job and ‘how to troubleshoot and solve problems.”

Jeff Blaisdell heard about the boot camp from his wife who does job placement and she encouraged him to apply. Jeff worked 15 years in construction and then switched careers to work in a machine tool shop where he was happy working until the company lost its contract. At his most recent position the hourly rate was low and the commission was too inconsistent budgeting for the needs of a family.

Jeff was ready to take the step to further his education through the boot camp program.

“Instructor Mike Pagliaroni is one of the smartest guys I know, because he can get it across to the students…but one of the best teachers that I have had so far,” says Jeff. Jeff also said that his instructor, Dan Neuman challenges students to figure things out on their own and problem solve. “In maintenance that’s what you have to do, work outside the box,” says Jeff. Jeff enjoys the challenges which increase his skills. “The knowledge you get here you can use anywhere and being able to troubleshoot is very important.” He also learned a lot in the DC/AC Electrical Theory class with Randy Reusser who gives “gold nuggets” to the students. Jeff explained, “These nuggets are the knowledge being dropped in our laps and we need to take the opportunity.” Jeff was first introduced to studying about electricity as a child, when he would read textbooks owned by his father, who was a military instructor.

Jeff is excited to start a new career, “I can do everything they taught me here whether it be industrial controls, hydraulics, pneumatics…the more hands on the better.”

Another major accomplishment for Jeff is that he also finished his GED/High School Equivalency with this program. Now he has his High School Equivalency completed as well as the first year of the associates degree which he is planning to finish once he enters his career. Jeff sees a lot of opportunities in the future, and has already been approached with a job offer, that he is considering. His proudest moment came from his 6-year-old “You are going to college today dad, can’t wait ’till I get to go!” he said. This opportunity not only is changing his life, but is having a positive influence on his family.

Wanted…

Potential Employers

Rooms are available for interviewing IMR Boot Camp students immediately following the completion ceremony.

For more information contact:

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The moment one door closed for Ed Gaffney, another opened and he walked right into an opportunity for a new career created by the industrial machine repair boot camp. After Ed Gaffney’s student loan officer position ended when the company closed its office in March 2012, he went to Walworth County Job Center, where Mark Leemkuil recommended he apply for the IMR Boot Camp. At his high school in Ireland, Ed worked with lathes and drills, and he studied Computer Science while in college. He then worked as a carpenter apprentice for five years in England. He met his wife and moved to the United States in September of 1993.

Ed felt that Mike Pagliaroni was very thorough in teaching students mechanical skills including how to work on Computer Numerical Control (CNC) equipment, lathes, drills and grinders. Ed’s knowledge of computers and programming helped him with the CNC machines and other computerized equipment. He did not think that this field would be so computerized and was surprised by the similarity in the skills needed. He spoke excitedly about how the boot camp class offered an opportunity to build motors for a local manufacturer as a class project and Ed commented, “I enjoyed doing a real project that will actually be used.”

He is also excited that preventative maintenance is included in the curriculum, “I believe this will get you in the door of a company.”

“The economy was not as strong and now it is picking up and now I have the skills to walk into any manufacturing industry and get hired.”

At the end of the 20 week session Ed is planning to sign up for a welding class at the Elkhorn Campus and in the future he wants to finish the rest of the Industrial Machine Repair technical diploma.

Upcoming Boot Camps
CNC Boot Camp XVIII begins Monday, January 6, 2014.
Welding/Fabrication Boot Camp begins January 6, 2014.
IMR: Coming June 2014!

Contact one of the following Workforce Development Center (WDC) representatives for additional information and application materials:

Kenosha: Rich Salisbury, Rich.Salisbury@kenoshacounty.org
Racine: Todd Nienhaus, Todd.Nienhaus@goracine.org
Walworth: Mark Leemkuil, mleemkuil@dwsfs.us

If you are interested in learning more about the Boot Camp curriculums contact:

CNC: Rick Lofy, lofyr@gtc.edu
Welding & IMR: Robin Hoke, hoker@gtc.edu

Boot Camp to Apprenticeship
Employers, did you know that a candidate from the boot camps can be hired as an apprentice? A contract will be drawn up between the apprentice, the employer, and the State of Wisconsin. Gateway Technical College will then set up the courses and the apprentice will attend one eight hour day per week, and the rest is on the job training. This training will pick up where the boot camp left off, resulting in a journey-worker status. This is a way to “grow your own” with the schooling and skills to back it up.

Contact: Sandy Brietzman, Apprenticeship Training Representative with the Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards at Sandra.brietzman@dwd.wisconsin.gov or 262-564-3210.