In this issue
Success Story - Dan Carbajal
SC Johnson iMET Grand Opening
Success Story - Jay Rieker
Completion Ceremony
Upcoming Boot Camps
Boot Camp to Apprenticeship

Wanted...
Potential Employers

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

For more information contact Todd Nienhaus from the Racine County Workforce Development Center at 262-638-6541 or Todd.Nienhaus@goracine.org

Success Story - Before applying for the CNC boot camp, Dan Carbajal (pictured above) worked at Wheaton Franciscan for 13 years in the medical records department. He left this stable position for a job as a 911 dispatcher because it offered a higher wage. During the training, it was determined that dispatching was not a good career fit for Dan.

When Dan heard about the boot camp he researched CNC on the internet. He was interested because he has always been good with his hands, and he saw that there was a demand for CNC operators. The boot camp also appealed to him because it is only a 14-week program. After being laid off and having a family, he does not have the time or resources to go back for a degree.

Coming out of high school, Dan thought he needed to go to a four year college to obtain a bachelor’s degree. He never considered entering the manufacturing industry. He said he should have researched it more when he was young, because “there are good jobs with good pay and benefits”. He said he wished his high school had more manufacturing courses. The closest he took was in an arts and metals class using punches, sanders and hand saws.

Dan commented that “Attending the SC Johnson iMET grand opening was pretty cool to see everyone that was involved. I was standing less than 30 feet away from the Johnson family. We are very lucky to have them.” He is appreciative of the financial support because he could not keep up with work and this program at the same time. He also said that “It seems like my odds for finding a job are very good.”

SC Johnson iMET Center Grand Opening - February 12th was an exciting day at Gateway’s SC Johnson integrated Manufacturing and Engineering Technology (iMET) Center as we opened the new flexible manufacturing lab in Tarnowski Hall and our industrial design Fab Lab. The flexible manufacturing lab will offer training in computer numerical control (CNC), welding and fabrication, industrial machine repair and robotics. The boot camp programs will now be offered in this facility. The Fab Lab is an innovative space with computer controlled tools that can bring manufacturing ideas to life. We were joined by approximately 400 guests from the region as well as state and national representatives including students, educational partners, and business and industry partners. The facility would not have been possible without the generous support of our community and business partners including SC Johnson and Beverly and the late Otto Tarnowski.
Success Story - Jay Rieker (pictured above) worked at Angel Lithography for nearly 29 years. They closed last January and he was laid off. He said he must have applied for more than 50 jobs in the print shop field. The field is now more electronic and they need fewer people to operate the machines. He knew how to work independently and had a lot of past experience, but companies did not have the time to train him with the new skills. He enjoyed what he was doing there, but he had to look for the next stepping stone.

Jay went down to the Racine County Workforce Development Center because he was struggling to find employment, and the center shared the boot camp opportunity. He thought it may have a familiar feel because he enjoyed working with computer controlled machines (graphic design and presses). He enjoyed math and hands-on projects, so he decided to apply.

Jay is enjoying working with the group and helping others achieve their goals. He usually stays the extra hours on Friday during the tutoring session to help his peers. “It is a good group of people. We all help each other out and work together,” he said.

When he completes the boot camp and secures a job, he would like to advance to set up and then programming. He could eventually see himself supervising a team. He has seen good examples of leadership in the boot camp with instructors that come in on Saturdays to give extra tutoring sessions and are “always willing to answer any questions.” “The instructors all have their own styles, but are 120 percent dedicated to the boot camp and they want everyone to succeed,” said Jay.

Boot Camp to Apprenticeship...Grant Money Available!

Employers, did you know that a candidate from the boot camps can be hired as an apprentice? 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: Donna Mews at 262-564-2954 or mewsd@gtc.edu to learn more. www.gtc.edu/apprenticeships

Grant funding is currently available in the Southeast Wisconsin region through Department of Labor TIME grants for manufacturers. Contact your local Workforce Development Center for more information.