

Updates on AmSkills Students

Please review the following updates on two AmSkills success stories.

Nikki is a single mother of three who has been living in a homeless shelter (Metropolitan Ministries) for the past year in Pasco County. She completed the AmSkills Adult Pre-Apprenticeship Program in July and was hired by Tru Simulation & Training, a Pasco County company that develops, manufactures and maintains state-of-the-art flight training simulators. We are happy to report that in November 2018, Nikki was offered and accepted a permanent job (with benefits) and began her career in Manufacturing with TruSimulation. In addition, Metropolitan Ministries has assisted Nikki and her family in finding permanent residency in Pasco County. Nikki recently moved into her new apartment and her children are extremely excited to have their “own rooms.” AmSkills is proud of Nikki’s hard work and perseverance. I’d also like to thank Melinda Paproski, AmSkills Administrative Assistant who is Nikki’s Coach, providing guidance and encouragement as she starts her new career.



Robert Llewellyn is a student who participated in the first AmSkills Youth Pre-Apprenticeship Program from 2015 - 2017 while attending Sun Lake High School. He received the first AmSkills Pre-Apprentice Award, along with \$1,000 Marie Pizzino Scholarship, which he used to further his education at Pasco Hernando State College (PHSC). Robert was placed as a paid Apprentice at Pharmaworks, Inc. in 2016, while attending PHSC. He also was recently interviewed on Fox 13 Good Morning Tampa Bay, where he was able to demonstrate a CNC Machine he built in his bedroom at home and to discuss the profound impact the AmSkills Program has had on his life. Robert recently moved to Orlando to attend the University of Central Florida to obtain his Mechanical Engineering Degree; however that doesn’t mean he won’t return to Pasco. Because of Robert’s value to Pharmaworks, the company is paying for his tuition with an agreement that he will return to Pasco and work full-time as a Mechanical Engineer. This is a great example of how the AmSkills Apprenticeship Program is able to help train young adults, secure quality high paying jobs without college debt (even when securing a college degree). Congratulations Robert and good luck as you continue on your path to success.



Recruitment Challenges and AmSkills Plan To Tackle It:

The Florida Education & Training Placement Report found 53.5% of HS graduates were not employed after graduation. Many of these students were unaware of the opportunities available to them in manufacturing. Public perception of the manufacturing (mfg) industry is very negative; less than 5 in 10 believe mfg jobs are rewarding, safe or secure (Mfg. Institute/Nat’l Assoc. of Mfr. study); only 37% of those in the study stated they would encourage their children to pursue a mfg career; 64% believed pay was not sufficient and 56% cited negative industry perception. These concerns are unfounded. In addition, with the current low un-employment rate, it becomes even more difficult recruiting into the industry. The average tenure in the mfg industry is the highest in all private-sector industries (9.1 yrs); many of these jobs have become innovative; unfortunately most people don’t know it.

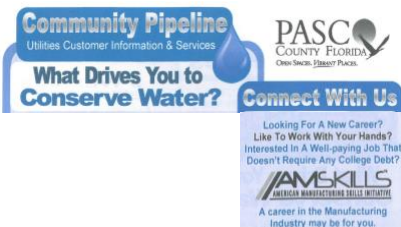
Adult Pre-Apprenticeship

2017	Total 20	•2017.1 = 4
		•2017.2 = 9
		•2017.3 = 7
2018	Total 13	•2018.1 = 5
		•2018.2 = 4
		•2018.3 = 4

One of our goals is to increase awareness and recruit candidates into the manufacturing industry through the AmSkills Youth & Adult Pre-Apprenticeship Programs. The following highlights a few ways AmSkills is working to increase recruitment and participation:

Pasco Utility Bill Newsletter

Special thanks to Pasco Utilities for placing information about AmSkills in December Utility bills. AmSkills received more calls than any other marketing effort.



Manufacturing Advisory Council

This Council is made up of Mfr’s to provide direct input into the AmSkills programs & assist implementing the AmSkills/Mfr Referral Program. Manufacturers are encouraged to refer students to AmSkills Programs.



AmSkills “Innovation Station”

Through grants & donations received, AmSkills has purchased a 15-passenger van & trailer which will become a hands-on mobile workshop to be used for recruitment within neighborhoods, at community events and non-profits. Special thanks to Dr. James Gills, City of St. Petersburg and Career Source Pasco Hernando for contributions to this effort.

See for more information in the coming months as we work on getting it up and operating.

