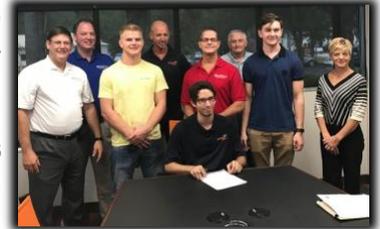


AmSkills Expands Apprenticeships for Machining and Helps Two Manufacturers Start Apprenticeship Programs

New FDOE Registered Apprenticeship – Machinist CNC: In June 2019, AmSkills expanded our registered Apprenticeship Program from the Florida Department of Education to include Machining CNC, increasing our total registered Apprenticeship Programs to six occupations. This Apprenticeship Program is a Competency-Based Program, providing up to 12 nationally recognized certifications from the National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS). AmSkills has been working with two manufacturers to implement a Machining Apprenticeship.

During the month of July, we had the opportunity to celebrate three apprenticeship signings with two Manufacturers in the Pinellas and Pasco County. First, a recent graduate of the AmSkills Youth Pre-Apprenticeship, Juan Arguelles, signed on to start his Machinist CNC Apprenticeship at Pharmaworks in Odessa. One of the exciting pieces of our Machinist Apprenticeship Program is that Juan will have a mentor at Pharmaworks and a coach at AmSkills that he can count on to support him as he begins his Apprenticeship in the industry. Pharmaworks now has a total of four Apprentices; three Mechatronics and one Machinist, with one more Apprentice Candidate expected to start in a few months! We want to thank Peter Buczynsky, President of Pharmaworks, for his continued support of our programs and our students! We also want to thank the Pasco County Office of Economic Growth for their financial support and Susan Biszewski-Eber, St. Petersburg College Apprenticeship Program Coordinator, for funding assistance from the Florida Apprenticeship Grant.



Our second signing took place at ABC Packaging in Tarpon Springs on July 19, 2019. Two of our Adult Pre-Apprentices, Trevor Cutro and Ronal Prodromitis, signed on to start their Machinist CNC Apprenticeships. We were honored to have some very special guests at the signing, including Pinellas County Commissioner Kathleen Peters, Pinellas County Office of Economic Development Director Mike Meidel, Rob Fleege, Outreach Director of the Office of Representative Gus Bilirakis, and St. Petersburg College Apprenticeship Program Coordinator, Susan Biszewski-Eber. In addition, ABC Packaging has hired an additional future Apprentice Candidate, Manuel Bilirakis.



“ABC Packaging has attempted to have an Apprenticeship Program in the past, however all have failed. They never worked out because they never had support outside (of work or school) and AmSkills brings accountability to the Apprentice...without AmSkills, this model will not work!” - Michael Reichert, Vice-President – ABC Packaging



AmSkills Adult Pre-Apprenticeship Continues to Grow in Pasco County

July has continued to be an exciting month for AmSkills. Our Adult Pre-Apprenticeship class, which started on July 8th, is the largest class we have ever had with 13 students enrolled to begin their hands-on training and manufacturing career exploration! A high percentage of our students are coming from referrals, which speaks highly to the awareness and visibility of AmSkills in the community; and through our partnerships with local non-profits including Metropolitan Ministries, Career Source and many others. Several students are receiving scholarships from our CareerSource Pasco/Hernando Grant, the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay and the HAAS Foundation. If you are interested in providing a scholarship or supporting AmSkills, a 501c3 non-profit organization, please contact AmSkills Executive Director, Tom Mudano. AmSkills is currently working to add Adult Programs in Pinellas County. Look for details in the future.



Machining & Mechatronics Program Attendance Increasing Due to Pre-Apprenticeship and Incumbent Workers

AmSkills realized that without an effective feeder system, it would be difficult to grow an Apprenticeship Program. The primary purpose of the Pre-Apprenticeship Program is to help high school students and adults learn the foundational skills needed to launch a career in manufacturing and to explore multiple career tracks, helping them determine the best career fit for them. In addition, the Pre-Apprenticeship provides a “vetting process” for local manufacturers, as our candidates must “successfully” complete the 400-hour program in order to be considered for a job or Apprenticeship placement. Once students complete the Pre-Apprenticeship, they may not be a Machinist yet, but would know they want to be one. Therefore, AmSkills coordinates the hiring process with a company that is deemed the best fit. The candidate may then continue their training as an Apprentice. As a result of this process and through our marketing efforts with local manufacturers, our Machining program has grown to 14 and our Mechatronics has 9 students participating!

Student Testimonial



"I would have to say my biggest takeaway from AmSkills would be how comfortable everyone makes you feel. No matter what your background may be or your level of education, they take the time to make sure every person understands what they're teaching. For all those people out there that are looking for a new career, come to AmSkills. If you are willing to do the work and apply yourself, you will have a bright and successful career."

-- Harold Ramsey

Harold, one of our current Pre-Apprenticeship students, came to AmSkills after moving from Illinois and finding our website. He was looking to start a new career as a CNC Machinist. After reading testimonials from students explaining how AmSkills had changed their lives, he knew this was something he had to be a part of.

Special Thanks to Our Donors for Making the AmSkills Mobile Innovation Station a Reality



On June 19 the AmSkills Mobile Innovation Station (MIS) was launched in Pasco County! The objective of the MIS is to teach people about the true nature of the manufacturing industry, helping dispel concerns about career trajectory, stability, security and pay. AmSkills believes if more people understand the true facts about the manufacturing industry, a channel to build a talented workforce will be created and the skill gaps will begin to decrease.

The AmSkills Mobile Innovation Station was made possible thanks to a very generous gift from Dr. James and Heather Gills, a grant from the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay and others including CareerSource Pasco Hernando, the Florida Department of Education, BlackJack Media Group, Acme On The Go and the City of St. Petersburg.



AmSkills will take this Mobile Workshop to local homeless shelters, women's shelters, veteran's organizations, schools and low-income areas to offer manufacturing demonstrations and training in a variety of trades. The MIS is equipped with portable workbenches, chairs, tools and materials to provide interactive workshops to individuals facing employment barriers. The MIS will be used to help recruit youth, adults, veterans and others into AmSkills training programs, giving them the opportunity to obtain meaningful employment. If you would like to sponsor an a Mobile Innovation Station Event or contribute, please contact Tom Mudano @ 727.301.1282.

Next Adult Pre-Apprenticeship Program Starts in September

Do you know someone who:

- is unsure about a career path?
- likes working with their hands?
- doesn't want to go into debt to go to college?

If so, AmSkills may be the right training program for them! How about going from unemployed to launching a career in 3-months, with no college debt?? Go to AmSkills.org to register for the next Adult Pre-Apprenticeship starting in September. Grants and scholarships available.

AmSkills on Baynews9 and WFLA iHeart Radio

Check us out by going to the following links:

[BayNews 9 - Opportunity on Wheels Link](#)

[WFLA News.iHeart Radio - AmSkills Apprenticeship Program](#)

Grant to Benefit 16 AmSkills Students



In an effort to increase interest in manufacturing in the local area, CareerSource Pasco Hernando and AmSkills Manufacturing Training & Apprenticeships have been awarded a grant to encourage students to explore advanced manufacturing as a career. The grant will provide \$100,000 for sixteen local students, which will include a hands-on skills training, exploration of multiple career tracks, tours to local manufacturers and the opportunity for job placement or paid apprenticeship with a local manufacturing company.



- 80% Hands-On Projects
- Explore 5 Career Tracks
- 3-Month Training Program
- Determine Best Track For You
- Job Placement Assistance
- High Paying Jobs & Future Growth

Call Us Today to Learn More

Starts September 8th

727.301.1282 ext. 126
AmSkills.org

501c3 non-profit organization