

Bridging The Gap Between Education & Industry

Executive Director's Update By Tom Mudano

12 Apprentice Candidates Ready to Launch Careers in Manufacturing

The first group of Youth Pre-Apprentices started AmSkills training as high school juniors in the fall of 2015. Now, they are turning 18 and starting their careers in manufacturing. Career conferences were conducted with each candidate to discuss their future plans and identify their preferred career track. Local manufacturers are selected based on the interest of the AmSkills Apprentice Candidate and the company projected to be the best fit. AmSkills is facilitating job interviews and scheduling the "Career Launch Phase" for our Apprentice Candidates.

AmSkills Pre-Apprenticeship Program Can Reduce High School Dropout Rate

In today's world, many of our youth (15 to 17) and young adults (18 to 26) do not have a clear view of their future. Often their parents are not available or not equipped to provide them with the guidance they need. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation commissioned a national survey of 470 high school dropouts in the US and "nearly 50 percent said they left school because their classes were boring and not relevant to their lives or career aspirations." The report, "The Silent Epidemic: Perspectives of High School Dropouts," based on research by Peter D. Hart Research Associates, goes on to say "Dropouts are more likely than high school graduates to be unemployed, in poor health, living in poverty, in prison or on public assistance, and to have children who also drop out of high school. On average, a high school dropout earns \$9,200 less per year than a high school graduate and about \$1 million less over a lifetime than a college graduate."

The AmSkills Apprenticeship program is a solution that can help prevent students from dropping out of high school by providing real-world skills to those who may need a clearer path in life. In addition to the technical skills needed in manufacturing, AmSkills provides a disciplined work-environment incorporating soft skills (team work, communications, work ethics, etc.) and life skills (goal setting, personal finance, etc.) necessary to succeed in life; however, reaching this population can be difficult.

One of the primary challenges AmSkills faces is effectively recruiting Apprentice Candidates into our program. For those in high school, we have worked with all three county school systems to help introduce the AmSkills After-School Pre-Apprentice Program. In the fall, we will begin our first dual-enrollment program in Pinellas County, which will allow students to attend during their school day and receive school credit. We are marketing and recruiting for our adult Pre-Apprentice & Career Launch Program. Traditional methods to market and recruit young adults do not work like they used to; therefore, we are implementing a plan that we hope will be cost effective and unique. More to come in the June Update.



A Few of the Youth & Adult Pre-Apprentices toured Qorvo Electronics Manufacturer in Hernando County

AmSkills Adult Pre-Apprentices Invited to Cheer on HAAS Race Team at the Daytona Firecracker 400 Race



Be sure to watch the Firecracker 250 in Daytona on June 30th and look for the AmSkills logo on the rear quarter panel of car No. 41, a Haas Automation/Monster Energy Ford Fusion driven by Kurt Busch. Six AmSkills Adult Pre-Apprentices and two instructors are special guests of HAAS racing and will join the pit crew with their XFINITY hot passes. When the HAAS race team wins again this year, our AmSkills Pre-Apprentices may have the opportunity to go to the "Winners Circle." Special thanks to Toni Neary, Director of Education for HAAS Education, for inviting AmSkills to participate in this exciting event.

Be Our Guest at the June 30th Annual Awards & Production Showcase



We hope you can join AmSkills Summer Manufacturing Boot Camp participants, Career Launch Candidates, Pre-Apprentices, instructors, manufacturing sponsors & community partners at our annual awards and barbecue on Friday, June 30, 2017 at the AmSkills Regional Headquarters & Training Center (Marchman Technical College, Building 6, 7825 Campus Drive, NPR) to celebrate our 2016-2017 milestones. Arrive at 11:30 to see a 3D printing demo and view the projects created by our Summer Manufacturing Boot Camp participants. Following a brief introduction and opening ceremony, Year 1 pre-apprentices will receive awards and certificates of completion and year 2 pre-apprentices will formally enter the "Manufacturing Career Launch" program with announcements of their

manufacturing sponsors. Lunch is at 12:00 pm (courtesy of our neighbors at Chef Ken's, Smokin' Out BBQ, Sonny's, and Publix). Please RSVP to Melinda at 727-310-1282 ext. 126.

Florida Department of Education Grant Coming to a Close

The FDOE grant is in the final close-out phase. We have completed all deliverables required and all payments for the \$300,000 grant have been received. The primary purpose of this grant was to secure additional equipment for our current Pre-Apprentice and Apprenticeship Program tracks. Specific purchases included a HAAS Mill and Lathe, HAAS CNC simulators, software and computers to begin introduction of design, welding equipment, 3D Printers, funding for curriculum development and marketing to start the Adult Pre-Apprenticeship and Career Launch Program.

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Adult Career Launch Programs Scheduled to Start in Hernando, Pasco & Pinellas This Summer

AmSkills has completed our pilot adult Pre-Apprenticeship Program and will start the "Manufacturing Career Launch" program for adults and veterans in all three counties. Pasco & Hernando Counties begin on Monday, July 10 and Pinellas County starts at our PTC campuses on August 10th. This 600-hour program requires full-time attendance; however, after completing 400 hours, candidates may be eligible for placement in paid positions with local manufacturers as semi-skilled workers or Apprentice candidates. The remaining 200 hours may consist of a combination of on-the-job training and/or more focused training on the specific track they select.



Adult Pre-Apprentices Learning to Program CNC

AmSkills Apprenticeship Foundation, Inc.

At the April 18th Board Meeting, the ICTC Governing Board voted to establish a 501c3 non-profit foundation. The Articles of Incorporation have been submitted and we are registered on Florida Sunbiz. We are in the process of preparing the budget, gathering Board Member biographies, and completing other required information to officially submit the rest of the paperwork.

Year 1 Pre-Apprentices Help Prepare Summer Camp Projects

One of the projects that Summer Manufacturing Boot Camp projects includes building and testing 3-D printers. Funding from the FDOE Grant was utilized to purchase a variety of 3-D Printers to be used to train our Pre-Apprentices, not only how to design and print, but also how they mechanically work. 3D Printing is considered a "disruptive technology" and will soon be utilized more in the manufacturing industry; therefore, the need for future technicians to repair them is going to be needed. This is one reason AmSkills incorporated this sought after technological training into our curriculum for Pre-Apprentice and Apprentice Candidates.



Fiscal Year 2015/16 Audit in Progress

Our annual audit conducted by Clifton, Larson, Allen, LLP started in May and expected to be completed by end of June. Results will be presented to the Executive/Finance Committee in August.

Economic Development and Dual Education/Apprenticeship System to Switzerland & Germany Trip a Success

May 15 – 19, 2016 representatives from Pasco, Pinellas & Hernando County Schools, Economic Development Councils, Education Foundations and Business' toured 12 technical schools, apprenticeship programs, and manufacturers to learn how their dual education system is reducing unemployment and introduce Tampa Bay as a great place to expand business. Overall a great learning opportunity for all attendees.



Community Connections

ICTC (Related to All Counties)

- Upper Tampa Bay Manufacturing Association: Board Meeting
- Florida Apprenticeship: Teleconference update on AmSkills
- Switzerland & Germany Trip for Economic Development & Apprentices
- Manufacturing Day Planning Meeting

Pasco County

- Pasco Economic Development Council Board: AmSkills Presentation
- Jobs & Economic Opportunities Committee: AmSkills Presentation
- Conducted Sun Lake High Robotics Team CNC Machinist Workshop
- Pasco County Internship Conference Call with Human Resources

Pinellas County

- Commissioner & AmSkills Update Meetings: Met with Commissioners (3)
- Career Source Tampa Bay: Meeting with Ed Peachy, CEO & Comm. Seal
- May 16th Pinellas County Internship Meeting with Human Resources
- May 17th UTBMA Advance Manufacturing Summit in Oldsmar
- May 25th Pinellas Ex-Offenders Re-Entry Coalition in St. Petersburg

Hernando County

- Commissioner & AmSkills Update Meetings: (2)
- Pasco/Hernando Career Source: Tour for Veterans
- May 19th Hernando County Community Summit in Brooksville

School Connections

Pasco County

- PHSC Student Tour of AmSkills
- Gulf High School: AmSkills Presentation to Students
- Sun Lake High School: CNC Machining Workshop

Pinellas County

- May 3rd Largo High School Information Table
- May 4th Countryside High School Information Table
- May 8th Pinellas Gulf Coast Academy Information Table
- May 9th Bayside High School Information Table
- May 11th Dunedin High School Information Table

Hernando County

- Central High School: AmSkills Presentation to Students
- Springstead High School: AmSkills Presentation to Students