

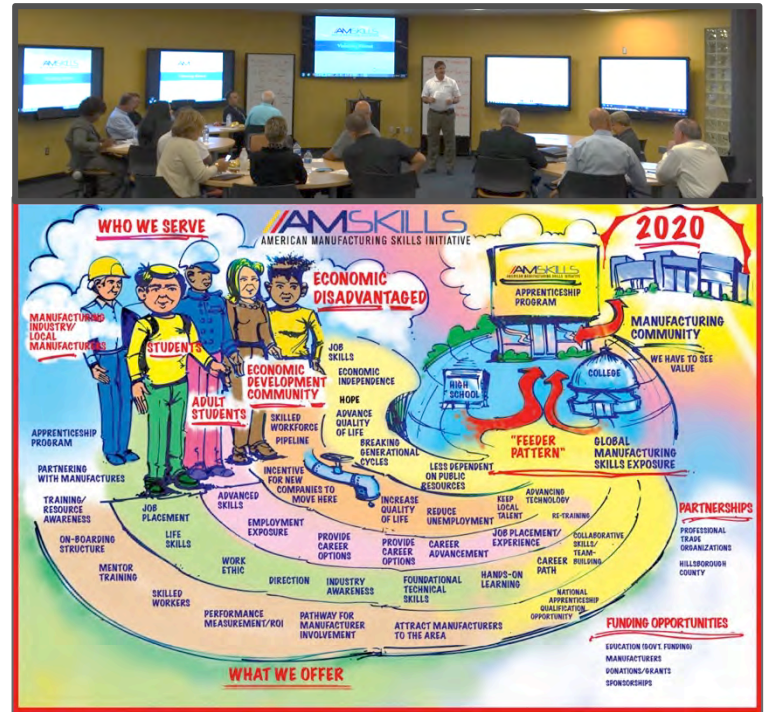
"Bridging the Gap Between Education & Industry"

## By Tom Mudano, Executive Director

In an effort to increase communications with the ICTC Governing Board Members, Advisory Committee and others in the community, we will be publishing a monthly report to highlight the accomplishments and hurdles from the past month. I hope you find this information informative.

## AmSkills 2020 Strategic Planning Session

On Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, the ICTC Governing Board participated in the AmSkills 2020 Strategic Planning Session at St. Petersburg College Collaborative Lab in an effort provide input into the future of AmSkills. Utilizing interactive smart boards, hand-held voting devices and other state-of-the-art technologies, participants were able to provide input in crafting the 2020 strategic plan and establishing priorities for the future. Jonathon Massie, a talented Business Illustrator, captured all of the information in an artistic illustration (see image on the right and see attached report).



## AmSkills Exploring Dual Enrollment for High School Students



Photo by PEDC

During the month of December and January, we have held several meetings with Mark Hunt, Pinellas County Schools; Dr. Austin, Hernando County Schools and Terry Aunchman, Pasco County Schools to discuss the feasibility of converting the AmSkills after school program into a Dual Enrollment program, which could be conducted during the school day. There are many challenges to implementing this by Fall 2017 because each school district is unique and operates differently. But, successful implementation of the Pre-Apprenticeship program would increase our participation because the school system will bus students to the AmSkills program in Pinellas (it has not been determined in Pasco or Hernando). In addition, the school system may cover costs of the instructors, supplies and assist with recruitment. AmSkills would have oversight of the curriculum and student placement.

We were hopeful that it could start this fall, however it may be too difficult to implement in all three counties at the same time, therefore we are considering starting a pilot program in just one county for now. We will update you next month on our progress.

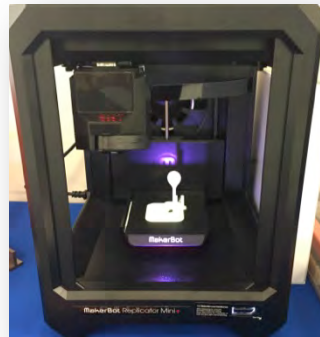
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## Florida Department of Education Grant Update

We have been progressing with the FDOE grant and received the first \$75,000 of \$300,000. All deliverables for the first two quarters have been completed and paperwork has been submitted to receive the 2<sup>nd</sup> payment of \$75k. Per the FDOE grant requirements, 90% of all funds must be expended prior to submitting the next payment. A few of the items received include table-top marketing displays for each County, outdoor AmSkills flags, 3-D Printer, furniture, a HAAS Mini-Mill which has been installed in Hernando and we are awaiting delivery of a HAAS Lathe. Additional deliverables we are working on include creating a marketing plan and starting adult and veteran programs, creating skills and competency tests for enrolled students and purchasing additional mechatronics equipment, electronics workbenches and tools.



**Marketing Display**



**3D Printer**



**HAAS Mini-Mill**

## 2017 Tentative Board Meeting Dates

The following are the scheduled dates for 2017 (see attached calendar):

- Executive/Finance Committee (Peter Buczynsky, Derek Diaz, Lori Romano) scheduled based on availability of Members (Times & Dates may vary)
  - January 13, 2017, March 23, June 8, July 13, August 24, September 7, October 19 & November 16
- Executive Director's Advisory Meetings – These meetings may be called to discuss specific topics (i.e. funding, manufacturer recruitment, etc.)
  - Meeting Dates to be determined based on specific needs/issues and Members invited based on expertise
- ICTC Governing Board Meetings – (All Board Members)
  - April 20th – Preliminary Budget
  - September 14 – Approval of FY17/18 Budget
  - December 8 – FY 16/17 Budget Recap

Note: We are in process of confirming dates with Board Members and a revision may be required.

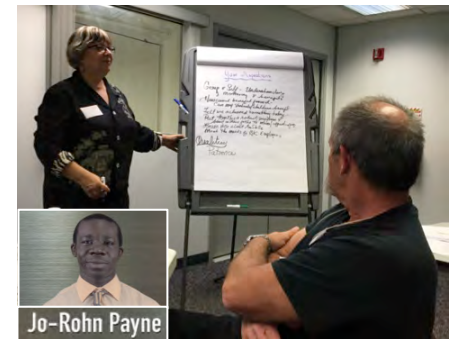
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## You're Invited to Tour Apprentices Programs in Germany & Switzerland

We are planning a trip to Germany and Switzerland to experience first-hand how the European Apprenticeship models work and capture ideas on how to bring their best practices to the AmSkills program. Tentative dates are May 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> in Switzerland and May 14<sup>th</sup> thru 18<sup>th</sup> in Frankfurt Germany. If you are interested in participating or learning more, please contact Tom Mudano, 727-301-1282 ext. 122.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Mentoring Workshop Conducted for Bic Graphics

In December 2016, Jo-Rohn Payne from East Lake High School started working at Bic Graphics as a candidate for Mechatronics Apprentice. AmSkills has implemented a Dual Coaching Program, which begins with Pamela Skyrme, PhD conducting training to Bic Graphic employees on "Being an Effective Mentor". The program is designed to help employees learn about the AmSkills Apprenticeship Program and their role as mentors for the student. The interactive workshop covered topics such as defining the role of a mentor, how to make the mentoring relationship successful and building trust. Eight Bic Employees participated and initial feedback was very positive.



## Career Edge Pays Startup Costs for AmSkills Student At Bic Graphics

If we can help overcome hurdles that prevent local manufacturers from investing in young adults, we believe it will help them to be more receptive to sponsoring AmSkills students as long-term Apprentices. One way of doing this is to provide funding sources that cover the initial investment costs of hiring.



CareerEdge is a non-profit organization that helps employers by providing small grants to offset internship costs. AmSkills successfully coordinated and secured a \$1,500 grant for Bic Graphics, which will go directly towards paying the wages for Jo-Rohn during his initial probationary period. Currently this program is only available to our students in Pinellas or Hillsborough Counties, however we will be working to identify other funding sources available to other counties, or identify other potential funding sources.



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## Instructor Training Held in January For Start of Winter Pre-Apprenticeship Term



On Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> AmSkills instructors were busy at work getting ready for the Winter Term, reviewing the curriculum and participating in hands-on activities. The Year 1 and Year 2 students returned in January after a much needed Christmas break.

## Adult Pilot Program Starts Monday, January 30th for Manufacturing Career Launch

AmSkills is starting our first adult program called "Manufacturing Career Launch." The program is modeled after our existing Pre-Apprenticeship program where students will explore manufacturing, specifically in CNC Machining, Mechatronics or Industrial Maintenance. We are starting the first pilot program at our Marchman Technical College location and will be receiving continuous evaluations from students in an effort to make improvements prior to rolling it out to the other locations.

We are planning to stagger the start dates in each County to provide more opportunities for students to enroll at different times of the year. This program is targeted to help adults who are economically disadvantaged, unemployed, veterans or those just seeking a new career.

## Time Clocks Installed to Help Track Training Hours & Simulate Real Work Experience

We recently installed wireless time clocks in our locations, which will be used to track the Pre-Apprentice and Apprentice hours while they are at the AmSkills Training Center. Students are issued a student number and their time is tracked in a database after clocking in and out. All information including their attendance, evaluations, emergency information and other pertinent information is stored in the database. Not only does the time clock provide us with a more accurate tracking system, but it also helps the students learn what it will be like once they start working for a new employer.



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## Marketing Highlights

### Christopher Baker, PharmaWorks Apprentice & Tom Mudano on CW 44's Bayside Show

Recently AmSkills was featured on the 30-Minute "Bayside" television show on CW 44. Chris Baker, a current Apprentice at PharmaWorks joined Tom Mudano answering questions from the host Sheli Sanders. Chris participated in his first television interview and he was an excellent representative for AmSkills. Sheli did an exceptional job making us feel welcome and comfortable during the interview. Once we receive a video copy of the show, we'll publish it on our website.



### Did You Notice Our New Tag Line?



"Bridging the Gap Between Education & Industry"

During the recent ICTC Governing Board Retreat, there was discussion about the role of AmSkills in the community. Peter Buczynsky, President of PharmaWorks made a statement that truly communicates who we are and concisely explains our role which is "Bridging the Gap Between Education & Industry." Thanks Peter for coming up with a great tagline (even though you didn't know you were doing that)!

### AmSkills Website Has a New Refreshed Design

We have recently given our website a new fresh look, adding more videos, graphics and a integrated registration system, allowing us to capture more information from our prospects registering to become a part of the AmSkills program. We are continuing to update this on a regular basis with relevant content that will clearly communicate our programs. Visit the site at [www.amskills.org](http://www.amskills.org).



### AmSkills Participates in FLATE Roundtable on Internships & Apprenticeships

On January 19<sup>th</sup>, Tom Mudano participated in a roundtable discussion at PTC – Clearwater about the benefits for companies to have interns or apprentices. The discussion included representatives from industry, St Petersburg College, PTC and current interns. Prior to the discussion, a tour was completed which included a visit to the AmSkills workshop.



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### Three AmSkills Pre-Apprentices Highlighted by MSSC as Industry Students

Congratulations to Justyn, Christopher, and Mark who were selected as Students of the Month by MSSC. Twelve students from across the nation were selected and 3 are from Nature Coast High School and Pre-Apprentices in the AmSkills Program. They are being featured in the January issue of the MSSC Community Update and in social media.



Congratulations are also extended to Ed Fry, Production Technology and Manufacturing teacher at Nature Coast and an AmSkills instructor who should be recognized for his dedicated service as their teacher, MSSC and AmSkills instructor.

### AmSkills Hosts International Business Leaders



On January 26th, AmSkills hosted the Pasco EDC International Committee at our Training Center in Pasco County. The Pasco Economic Development

Council officially launched their International Program in 2016 after recognizing an opportunity to significantly increase the number of Pasco-based companies competing in the global marketplace. Pasco County Commissioner and Committee Chair Kathryn Starkey led the meeting of numerous international and domestic companies interested in international initiatives. AmSkills staff provided a tour of the facility and a presentation about our programs.



### Pasco Economic Development Council Photographs AmSkills Students

The PEDC recently came to the AmSkills Training Center to photograph students taking part in our program. The purpose? Marketing AmSkills to potential companies looking to relocate to the Tampa Bay Area and to existing businesses.



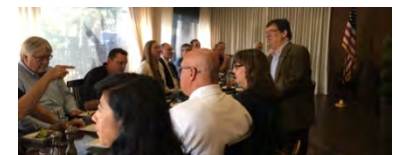
### Executive Director of NIMS Visits AmSkills



James Wall from the National Institute of Metalworking Skills, Inc. recently visited AmSkills to learn about our programs and to discuss the potential for AmSkills to become a NIMS Certified Training Center. Special thanks to Roy Sweatman, President of SMT, for coordinating his visit and providing transportation to one of our Training Centers.

### Congressman Gus Bilirakis Provides Insight into Manufacturing Future

Recently the Upper Tampa Bay Manufacturing Association sponsored a luncheon, which included Congressman Gus Bilirakis providing insight into the political future for manufacturing. It was a great opportunity to hear what the priorities are of the new administration and how it may impact us all.





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## BLOG EDUCATORS INDUSTRY STUDENTS

January  
5

### ***Meet Justyn Bowes, Christopher Baker, and Mark Kowalski the January MSSC Students of the Month!***

Meet the January MSSC Students of the Month nominated by Ed Fry, Instructor, Nature Coast Technical High School. Here are their nomination stories:

#### **Justyn Bowes**

Justyn Bowes is a 2015-2016 graduate of Nature Coast Technical High School in Brooksville, Florida where he completed a four-level Automation & Production Technology course in the Engineering & Manufacturing department. Justyn earned his MSSC Certified Production Technician industry certification through this course. While still in high school, Justyn enrolled in the American Manufacturing Skills Initiative (AMSkills) at the local Hernando County training site where he continues to train in manufacturing technologies. Through AMSkills, Justyn has been sponsored by a local manufacturer – Accuform Signs – where he is currently employed. During Justyn's senior year at Nature Coast Technical High School, he also earned the American Design Drafting Association (ADDA) Apprentice Drafter – Mechanical industry certification.

#### **Christopher Baker**

Christopher Baker is a 2015-2016 graduate of Nature Coast Technical High School in Brooksville, Florida where he completed a four-level Automation & Production Technology course in the Engineering & Manufacturing department. Christopher earned his MSSC Certified Production Technician industry certification through this course. While still in high school, Christopher enrolled in the American Manufacturing Skills Initiative (AMSkills) at the local Hernando County training site where he continues to train in manufacturing technologies. Through AMSkills, Christopher has been sponsored by a local manufacturer – PharmaWorks Inc – where he is currently employed. Christopher is also enrolled at Pasco-Hernando State College where he continues academic coursework.

#### **Mark Kowalski**

Mark Kowalski is a 2015-2016 graduate of Nature Coast Technical High School in Brooksville, Florida where he completed a four-level Automation & Production Technology course in the Engineering & Manufacturing department. Mark earned his MSSC Certified Production Technician industry certification through this course. While still in high school, Mark enrolled in the American Manufacturing Skills Initiative (AMSkills) at the local Hernando County training site where he continues to train in manufacturing technologies. Mark works two jobs while enrolled at Pasco-Hernando State College where he continues academic coursework.

Congratulations Justyn, Christopher, and Mark! Keep up the hard work!



