Executive Director’s Update By Tom Mudano

February proved to be another busy month, however per requests, I have prepared a more concise report for the Board. During the past 18-months, AmSkills has primarily focused on establishing the high school Pre-Apprenticeship Program. Many of our current students have yet to be placed at local manufacturers primarily due to under-18 age restrictions and school factors; however many of these students are approaching their 18th birthday. As a result, we are currently meeting with these students and parents to discuss their future career in manufacturing; and those interested and capable will be placed at local companies. In addition, we have started our first pilot adult program called “Manufacturing Career Launch.” As we prepare our annual schedule, once we have all “Launch” programs in operation, we project a significant increase in revenue and potentially may be able to provide up to 200 potential apprentices & semi-skilled placements per year across all three counties.

New Manufacturer Connections
AmSkills first class of high school students (Pre-Apprentices) began in 2015 and most are unable to be placed working at a manufacturer until they are 18. Many of these students are now approaching 18 and with the start of the adult & veterans programs, we have started reaching out to local manufacturers to introduce them to AmSkills & placement.

Pasco County
• Mettler Toledo: Commissioner Starkey facilitated this meeting for a company relocating to Pasco & needs 150-200 new employees by 2018, which we will be helping to recruit, train & provide.
• Tru Simulation + Training: AmSkills Introductory presentation completed & proposal being developed

Pinellas County
On Feb. 24, the following manufacturers were invited by Peter Buczynsky & toured AmSkills
• Osgood Industries, Inc.: Attended AmSkills tour
• Tri-Tronics Company: Attended AmSkills tour
• A-B-C Packaging Machine Corp: Attended AmSkills tour

Hernando County
• Qorvo: Scheduling Plant Tour & Intro-Presentation
• Accuform: Scheduling Mentor Training Class

Hillsborough County
• Tri-Tronics Company: Scheduling Plant Tour & Intro

New Community Connections
The following are various meetings, presentations or tours conducted to introduce AmSkills.

Pasco County
• Senator Wilton Simpson: Update Meeting
• Ultimate 3D Printing Store: Intro-Presentation
• Pasco-Hernando Career Source: Jerome Salantino, CEO discussion on funding
• PACE for Girls: Tour of their facility
• Pasco-Hernando Career Source: Intro-Presentation to Career Placement Specialists
• Youth Education College & Career Night: AmSkills Booth

Pinellas County
• Bic Graphic: Commissioner Seel tour & AmSkills Update
• Tampa Bay Auto Event: AmSkills Booth

Hernando County
• STEAM event: Speaker & Career Fair
• County Administrator Len Sossamon & Commissioner Dukes: Met & Provided AmSkills Update

Other
• GACC Economic Outlook: Attended Event
• GACC South Skills Initiative: 2-Day Visit by Nicole Heimann, Skills Manager to discuss AmSkills IHK Cert.
• National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS): Discussion on establishing AmSkills NIMS Certifications
• Attended Festo Bluegrass Mechatronics Workshop
New Hernando County Manufacturer Representative Recommended for ICTC Governing Board

Recently, I received notice from Chip Howison of Alumi-Guard that he will no longer be able to participate on our Board due to his job demands. I want to thank Chip for his contribution and time on our Board.

In February, I met with Commissioner Wayne Dukes and Len Sossamon, County Administrator and they recommended John Murphy, Vice President of Human Resources for Accuform; to become the Hernando County Manufacturer Representative on the ICTC Governing Board. For most of its history Accuform has operated right out of Hernando County. Located in the Airport Industrial Park, Accuform occupies four buildings throughout the park and employs over 300 people in a variety of positions from key manufacturing jobs, to e-commerce and web, customer service, design, and more. Accuform is proud to support American manufacturing jobs, and is proud to be the county’s largest manufacturer.

John Murphy is a 28 year resident of Hernando County and serves locally on the Board of Directors for Jericho Road Ministries, the Greater Hernando Chamber of Commerce and the Hernando Republican Executive Committee. He has previously served on the Boards of Impact Tampa Bay, the United Way of Hernando County, The Hernando County Housing Authority, Christian Church in the Wildwood and Harvest Christian Church. John is passionate about economic opportunity; job creation and helping organizations build an awesome culture!

Please contact Tom Mudano if you have any questions, otherwise John will be attending the April meeting for the Board to vote acceptance.