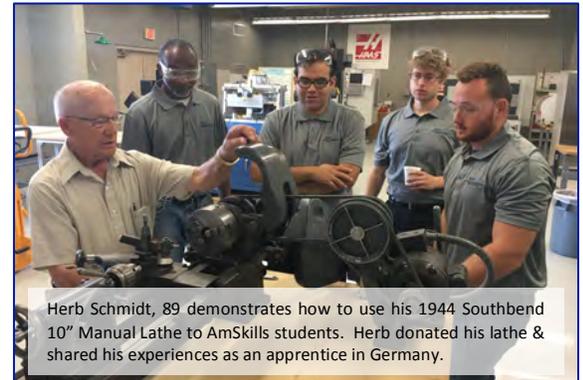


## “Bridging the Gap Between Education & Industry”

### 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.



Herb Schmidt, 89 demonstrates how to use his 1944 Southbend 10” Manual Lathe to AmSkills students. Herb donated his lathe & shared his experiences as an apprentice in Germany.

### 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



Tampa Bay Packaging Manufacturers Tour AmSkills



Festo Bluegrass Mechatronics Workshop



German American Chamber of Commerce (GACC) South & SPC Visit AmSkills



AmSkills Staff Tour TRU-Simulation

**“Bridging the Gap Between Education & Industry”****Adult Manufacturing Career Launch Update**

AmSkills started our first pilot adult program called “Manufacturing Career Launch” in January modeled after our existing Pre-Apprenticeship program where students will explore manufacturing, specifically in CNC Machining, Mechatronics or Industrial Maintenance. This program is full-time and operates four or five days per week for up to 32 hours per week. Students will complete their “foundational skills training & assessment” within three months and upon successful completion will be eligible to be placed working at a local manufacturer.

**May 2017 Trip Planned for Germany & Switzerland**

Plans for a trip to Germany and Switzerland are moving along for attendees to experience first-hand how the European Apprenticeship model works and capture ideas on how to bring their best practices to the AmSkills program. In addition, we will have the opportunity to present the Tampa Bay Area to numerous companies for consideration of bringing future business to our area. Dates are May 12th to 19th. If you are interested in participating or learning more, please contact Tom Mudano, 727-301-1282 ext. 122.

**Florida Department of Education Grant Update**

We continue to progress with the deliverables for the FDOE grant and are expecting our next payment of \$75,000 within the next few weeks. Just this past week we received delivery of a HAAS Lathe at the Pasco location. Deliverables completed this past quarter-included drafting a marketing plan and starting the pilot adult program. We achieved a significant amount of capital expense savings from some of the budgeted equipment items due to reductions in equipment prices (such as the new HAAS), which allows us to make adjustments to the grant. These adjustments will allow us to purchase much needed computers for our students, additional 3D printers, increase marketing of programs for adults and veterans; and some welding equipment, which will allow us to provide basic introductory welding skills.

**The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany Invites AmSkills to Visit Germany**

The Embassy of Consulate of the Federal Republic of Germany has invited Tom Mudano, AmSkills Executive Director to visit Germany for a fact-finding tour under the Visitors Programme of the Federal Government. The trip will include visiting technical schools and companies with active apprentice programs & is schedule for March 26 to April 1, 2017.

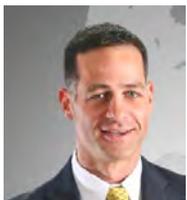
**AmSkills to be Approved as Certified Career Source Training Center**

All paperwork has been submitted and during the March Pasco-Hernando Career Source Board Meeting, AmSkills is expected to be officially approved as a certified Career Source Training Center. This certification will increase our marketing efforts utilizing the Career Source channels as well as opening up funding opportunities for AmSkills students and for manufacturers who sponsor our Apprentices.

**2017 Board Meeting Dates (Times Planned are 12:30<sup>pm</sup> to 3:30<sup>pm</sup>)**

The following are the final scheduled dates for 2017:

- April 18<sup>th</sup> – Hernando County: Review Preliminary Budget & Non-Profit
- September 20<sup>th</sup> - Pasco County: Approval of FY17/18 Budget
- December 8<sup>th</sup> – Pinellas County: FY 16/17 Budget Recap & Election of Officers

**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.