

## Bridging The Gap Between Education & Industry

### Executive Director's Update By Tom Mudano

March proved to be another busy month which included several tours and preliminary meetings at AmSkills for the purpose of initiating the process to secure additional accreditations as well as potential funding opportunities. The following is a brief summary:



The Association for Packaging and Processing Technologies

Glen Long, Senior Vice President of PMMI, a nationally recognized Association for Packaging and Processing Technologies visited to learn about AmSkills and to discuss procedures for us to apply for grant funding. As a result of our initial meeting, another meeting has been scheduled with PMMI's Stephen Gerard, Director of Workforce Development and we have been invited to make a presentation to the PMMI Board in April to request funding to develop our Mechatronics program. Special thanks to Peter Buczynsky, President of PharmaWorks, for setting up the meeting and to Derek Diaz, Bic Graphic; Uwe Richter, Bosch Packaging Technologies; Mark & Michael Reichert of A-B-C Packaging Machine Corp; and Tim Kelley, Tri-Tronics for attending the meetings in support of our efforts.



National Institute for Metalworking Skills

AmSkills also initiated the process to become an Accredited NIMS Training Center. NIMS (National Institute of Metalworking Society) is a nationally recognized certification program which will enhance the AmSkills Machining (CNC) and Industrial Maintenance programs. The process to become accredited can take up to a year, however, it will provide AmSkills with nationally recognized certifications for our Apprentices and provide additional funding opportunities.

The following are brief highlights of additional accomplishments completed during the month of March.

#### ICTC Board Meeting – April 18<sup>th</sup>

There is an ICTC Board Meeting Scheduled Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> from 12:30pm to 3:30pm in Hernando County. The Board Meeting will be held at the AmSkills Training Center located at 16110 Aviation Loop Drive, Brooksville, FL 34604. Contact Tom Mudano at 727-331-2917 if you need further directions.

#### Community Connections

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

#### ICTC (Related to All Counties)

- PMMI: Tour/Presentation at AmSkills
- Future Plans USA: Tour/Presentation at AmSkills
- National Tool Making Association: Attended Event March 9<sup>th</sup>
- Avalon Development Group: Tour/Presentation at AmSkills
- NIMS Credentialing: Webinar to Start Accreditation Process
- Tampa Bay Manufacturing Consortium: Attended Retreat
- Best of Tampa Bay: AmSkills Tour & Presentation

#### Pasco County

- PHSC Job Fair: Marketing Booth
- Career Source: Attended Manufacturing Roundtable event

#### Pinellas County

- FL West Coast NTMA: Attended Event on March 9

#### Hernando County

- Hernando Progress Inc: AmSkills Tour & Presentation
- Career Source: Attended Manufacturing Roundtable event
- Hernando County Economic Development: Students Participated in "Whv Hernando" Economic Development Video Shoot

#### Manufacturer Connections

The following are brief highlights of meetings, events, tours completed during the past month.

#### Pasco County

- Pall Aerospace: Completed Tour & Preparing Proposal for Apprentices
- Mettler Toledo: Preparing Proposal to Provide Apprentices
- Tru Simulation+: Preparing Proposal to Provide Apprentices

#### Pinellas County

- Bosch Osgood: Preparing Proposal to Provide Apprentices
- A-B-C Packaging Machine Corp: Scheduled Plant Tour in April

#### Hernando County

- Accuform: Scheduling Mentor Training Class & Proposal
- Monster Transmission: Discussion on Student Placement

#### School Connections

The following are brief highlights of meetings, events, and tours completed during the past month.

#### Pasco County

- Pasco County Schools: Meeting with Kurt Browning, Superintendent & Ray Gadd, Assistant Superintendent regarding AmSkills marketing

#### Pinellas County

- Pinellas Technical College: Met with Mark Hunt and the Directors of PTC Clearwater & St. Petersburg to discuss implementing adult programs and high school student recruitment.
- Clearwater High School: AmSkills Presentation to Students

#### Hernando County

- Springstead High School: AmSkills Presentation to Students

## Bridging The Gap Between Education & Industry

### Manufacturing Recruitment Increases to Secure Placements for Upcoming Apprentices

Previously, we mentioned that most of our current Pre-Apprentices are under 18; therefore, we have been unable to place them working at local manufacturers; however, we have 9 students approaching 18 years of age and 5 adults who will be ready for placement in the next few months. We have recently increased our manufacturing recruitment efforts with the goal placing our students in semi-skilled jobs or as skilled Apprentices. All companies we met with indicated a strong interest in the AmSkills program, and we are currently in the process of preparing proposals for them. AmSkills has been asked to help fill up to 150 new jobs.



### 1-Day Production Workshop & Open House for Parents Scheduled in April & May

On Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8 am to 4 pm, AmSkills has scheduled a 1-Day Production Workshop in Pasco and Hernando; and on Saturday, May 8th at PTC Clearwater in Pinellas County. This workshop is designed to provide high school students and adults the opportunity to participate in a hands-on project and to learn how to become a part of the AmSkills Apprenticeship Program.

### Tom Mudano visits Germany as an Invited Guest of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany



The Embassy of Consulate of the Federal Republic of Germany invited Tom Mudano, AmSkills Executive Director to an all-expense-paid trip to Germany for a fact-finding tour under the Visitors Programme of the Federal Government. The trip was completed from March 26 to April 1, 2017, and included tours of numerous technical schools and businesses with active apprentice programs as well as several government agencies. Twenty delegates representing 20 different countries participated in the educational program which is designed to educate other countries about the German Dual Education and Apprenticeship System. AmSkills would like to especially thank the Honorable Annette Klein, Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami for recommending me for the delegation participating in this extremely rewarding educational trip.

Delegates Representing 20 Countries



### 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 days per week. Once they complete our Career Launch Program in two months, they will be eligible to be placed with a local manufacturer as semi-skilled workers or Apprentices. Several manufacturers already have expressed interest in interviewing our students.

### 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. 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 days. We received delivery of a HAAS Lathe at the Pasco location and a HAAS Mini-Mill in Hernando. Deliverables completed in the past quarter included drafting a marketing plan and starting the pilot adult program. We also negotiated significant savings and, due to reductions in equipment prices such as the new HAAS, we were able to amend the grant. These adjustments allowed us to purchase much-needed computers for our students: additional 3D printers; increased marketing budget for upcoming adult and veteran program promotion; and welding equipment for a new welding skills track, including a welding art class to appeal to high school girls and women to participate in the AmSkills Program and potentially fill a void in the industry.