

# THE PIPELINE

Suffolk County Community College's Workforce and Economic Development Newsletter

Spring 2016

## Welding Isn't Just For Men

"People of all ages, especially women, need to know that there are great opportunities in welding," says Holly Beck of Smithtown, N.Y. Her passion is understandable. In December 2015, Ms. Beck became the first female graduate of Suffolk County Community College's Welding Program.

Ms. Beck came to welding honestly. "My dad was a welder and I've always been interested in building things," she says. Still, welding was not her initial career choice. After spending more than 20 years in the mental health services field, she decided it was time to do something new. "I wanted to focus my energy in a new direction," she says. "Welding feeds my creative side and allows me to be part of the fabrication process. I can see myself working in ornamental design."

In Suffolk's semester-long program, welding students meet two nights per week and on every other Saturday. Because classes are limited to eight students, there is a great deal of individualized instruction. The program has been running for the past six years and has trained close to 150 welding students who are now working in a wide range of regional industries, including manufacturing, automotive, construction, marine repair and more. At the semester's end, students are even able to test for national certification through the American Welding Society (AWS), which increases job opportunities.

"Suffolk worked into my schedule perfectly," says Ms. Beck. "It allowed me to keep my day job while pursuing my new career goal."

"The program has been very successful," says Laura Galletta, the Professional Assistant who has been supervising the program for Suffolk County Community College. "The instructors bring specialized workforce experience to the students, and the AWS passing rate is excellent. The future has been brighter for many with an industry-recognized skill. We welcome companies to visit the classes each semester, to see first-hand what their soon-to-be employees are learning."

"This does not have to be a male dominated field," says Ms. Beck. "Businesses are just looking for people who have the right skills...and you can find them at Suffolk."

New welders are in demand. Salaries vary but experienced welders can earn as much as \$65 an hour. No experience is

necessary to begin training. Students can enroll as a career opportunity or to simply gain a new to hobby. Interested students are encouraged to arrange a tour of the facilities in the Workforce Technology Center on the Michael J. Grant Campus in Brentwood. For more information, simply call 631-851-6200 or visit [www.sunysuffolk.edu/CTC](http://www.sunysuffolk.edu/CTC).

***"This does not have to be a male dominated field."***

*Ms. Beck*



*Suffolk welding graduate Holly Beck, and Laura Galletta, who oversees the College's program*



**How is Suffolk's Office of Workforce Development keeping pace with the evolving needs of regional industry?** We continually engage industry with management and HR forums that provide us with hands-on opportunities to understand what programs are necessary to provide a pipeline of skilled workers for current or future employment needs.

**How are Suffolk's Workforce Programs helping the region's manufacturers to grow?**

We provide a wide range of training that covers multiple

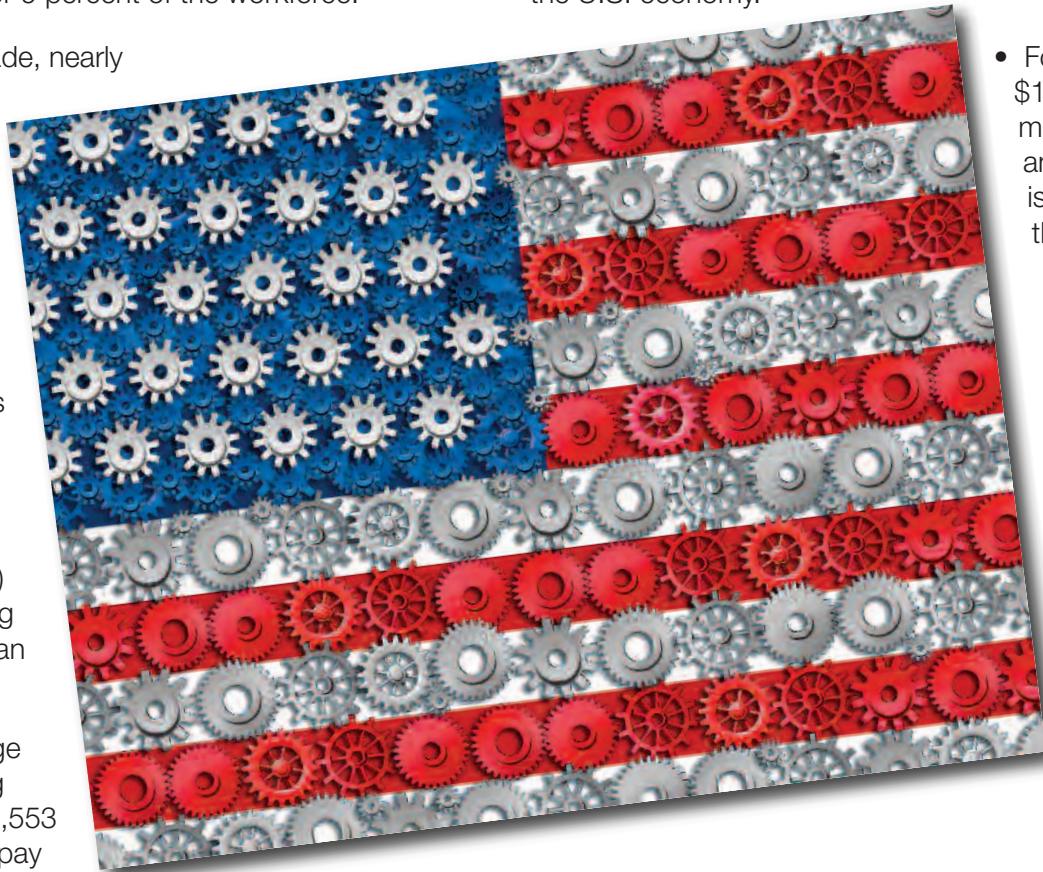
industries each week. We are training displaced workers that are referred to us by the Suffolk County Department of Labor, as well as private training for regional companies. The training includes machining, welding and everything in-between. In every case, we are delivering the necessary skills – from work ethic to safety programs to quality control – to provide employees with capabilities to make their employers more efficient and effective.

**Where do you see the potential for the most growth?**

Over the past three to five years, the pharmaceutical industry has been hiring at its highest rate ever. In addition, aerospace and defense-related firms have documented backlogs of private and government contracts that need to be filled. As a result, employment has been strong across all capacities, including salespeople.

## Manu-Facts and Figures

- There are 12.33 million manufacturing workers in the U.S., accounting for 9 percent of the workforce.
- Manufacturing contributes more than \$2.15 trillion to the U.S. economy.
- Over the next decade, nearly 3.5 million manufacturing jobs will likely be needed, and 2 million are expected to go unfilled due to a skills gap.
- For every \$1.00 spent in manufacturing, another \$1.40 is added to the economy.
- U.S. manufacturers perform more than three-quarters of all private-sector research and development (R&D) in the nation, driving more innovation than any other sector.
- In 2014, the average U.S. manufacturing worker earned \$79,553 annually, including pay and benefits. The average worker in all industries earned \$64,204.



# Celebrating National Manufacturing Day

This past fall, Suffolk County Community College celebrated National Manufacturing Day with an event sponsored by The Workforce Development Institute (WDI). The event was held at the College's Workforce Development Technology Center, on the Michael J. Grant Campus in Brentwood, and included a host of state and local officials, labor leaders, manufacturing CEOs, Economic Development officials, and students.

perspective, ultimately leading some to consider launching manufacturing careers and startups. At Suffolk, we are focusing on new technologies that can empower students and support entrepreneurship. By emphasizing the connection between the College and career pathways, we are confident that skilled workers will be able to stay on Long Island and be able to afford to live here and raise a family," said Dr. McKay.



*Photo (l to r): NYS Senator Jack Martins, College Trustee Anne Shybunko-Moore, Trustee Paul Pontieri, Jr., HVAC student Martin Lane, NYS Assemblyman Andrew Raia, Assemblyman Michael Fitzpatrick, and College President Dr. Shaun L. McKay*

The centerpiece of the event was the unveiling of "Millennials in Manufacturing," a video highlighting Long Island millennials in manufacturing, as well as the companies that employ them. The video was produced by the WDI's Long Island chapter. By highlighting the creative nature of manufacturing, as well as the many rewards and opportunities available to those committed to cultivating the local talent and entrepreneurship, the video and event underscored the many reasons to live and work here.

"Community colleges have been at the forefront of helping to redefine manufacturing in the 21st century. We are certainly hopeful that the event and video will serve to inspire a new group of creative entrepreneurs—known as makers—to view manufacturing from a different

The event also featured a panel discussion that explored the evolution of the local industry, the rewards and challenges of operating a manufacturing business on Long Island, the new trend of millennials looking to work locally and the career paths that are enabling them to innovate, contribute to business growth, and advance professionally.

***"At Suffolk, we are focusing on new technologies that can empower students and support entrepreneurship."***

***Dr. Shaun L. McKay, President  
Suffolk County Community College***

# Advanced Manufacturing Training Center

The Advanced Manufacturing Training Center (AMTC) at Suffolk offers advanced manufacturing and industrial training programs that are designed to develop and upgrade the skills necessary for success in the manufacturing field.

These industry-driven topics are designed for both individuals and manufacturing companies:

- CNC Machining/NIMS\*
- Welding/AWS\*
- IPC Certifications\*
  - AutoCAD
- Fundamental Machining Processes
  - MasterCAM
- Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC)
  - Pneumatics and Hydraulics

\* National Certification Available



Each course offers a certificate upon completion of the class. Both classroom and hands-on learning will be utilized to create a realistic training environment.

## Industry Training Starts Here!

## Corporate Training Center

Success in today's business climate is dependent upon an organization's ability to attract, hire and retain a highly skilled, motivated and flexible workforce. The Corporate Training Center (CTC) at Suffolk provides training in the following areas to help regional businesses achieve their goals:



- Business Management
- Leadership
- Computers
- Communications
- Language Skills
- Customer Service

To learn how we can make your employees more productive and your bottom line even more profitable, contact us today.

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