

Skilled Machinists Available Immediately

Excerpted from an article published November 4, 2009 by Paula J. Owen,
Worcester Telegram Correspondent



Are you looking for a skilled machinist? We have 8!

JOB FAIR and CNC Lab Tour

DECEMBER 1st, tour begins at 8:30am

WPI, Washburn Building

Please call Leslie Parady at 508-831-7020 to register your company attendance.

During MassMEP and WPI's seven week (180 hour) course, participants learn technical skills including: shop math, blue printing, metrology, parts inspection including CMM operation, GD&T, CAD/CAM programming, set up,

Current resumes can be found at:

https://stempower.grouppsite.com/group/mostwpi/file_cabinet

LEOMINSTER – Over the past two weeks, eight men learned the basics on a bus that was parked at the North Central Career Center. Now come five weeks of advanced training at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. And the next stop should be machine-tool jobs using their newfound computer numerical control or CNC skills.

The eight men are participating in a new Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership program designed to eliminate the need for much on-the-job training. Ted Bauer, manager of work force development programs at MassMEP, said the advanced training at WPI will give them hands-on learning on actual CNC machines. They will learn tool changeovers, problem solving and the troubleshooting process, and will gain experience in metrology and learn how to set up and adjust the machines.

"It's good for the employer because they do not have to do that training," Mr. Bauer explained. "The employer would have to provide extensive on-the-job training if they only went through the first two weeks. The training time for the employer is cut in half or better."

It is the first time MassMEP, which provided the initial training out of its mobile training unit, has offered the advanced training in New England, he said.

Adam H. Sears, a laboratory machinist at WPI, said participants will take an accelerated CNC machining course and receive training on 11 CNC machines in the shop at the school. They will get more training than freshmen who take a similar course, he said, completing 20 hours of lab per week for five weeks instead of four hours per week for seven weeks. "We were asked to help by MassMEP in an effort to train people so they can get better jobs," Mr. Sears said. "They will learn to take a drawing and bring it all the way to a finished part. They'll learn how to do everything from 'art to part,' " he said.

Steven E. Phillips, president of Phillips Precision in Boylston, said it was a "no-brainer" for an employer to choose a job candidate who does not require on-the-job training over one who does. "It's the difference between someone that has seen a CNC machine and someone who hasn't," he said. "They can also find out, by the time the program's done, if participants have the aptitude for it and screen out people that are not really cut out for it." He said the training at WPI can save a company thousands of dollars in training time. "It's hard to put a solid monetary value on it," he said. "There is a lack of places to send people for this kind of training in the area. Outside of

vocational schools, I don't know of any other place."

Matthew R. Healy, program instructor for MassMEP, said with the economic downturn he has seen an increase in experienced people losing their jobs, making it harder to place people with less experience. Advanced training at WPI will give those out of a work a better chance at finding a job, he said.