

## Manufacturing Companies Access Training

> **By Dr. G. Jeremiah Ryan, President, Bergen Community College; Chair, NJ Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development**



A recent survey of New Jersey manufacturers conducted by The New Jersey Business & Industry Association (NJBIA) shows demand for skilled production technicians and assembly workers in light industrial plants throughout the state. At the same time, skilled production workers and technicians remain in demand.

Mirroring these trends are April 2011 statistics from the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Manufacturing employment continued to trend upward, with growth in fabricated metal products and machinery. In fact, employment in durable goods manufacturing has risen by 243,000 since its low in December 2009.

Supporting this growth has been an increased emphasis on employee training for many of the state's manufacturers. Companies are recognizing that a well-trained workforce is a significant asset that needs to be nurtured. Much of this training has been financed with training funds supplied under the NJBIA Basic Skills Workforce Training Program, a partnership between the NJBIA, the state's community colleges and the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

"Our partnership with NJBIA and the New Jersey Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development ensures that businesses in New Jersey remain successful and competitive, while workers who receive basic skills training through our cooperative efforts are equipped to work more productively. The worker's career prospects are improved as we also improve the bottom line for business in our state," says Harold J. Wirths, Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

W H Industries, a Bergen County manufacturer of engine parts, recently incorporated training that was funded by the NJBIA program and delivered by Bergen Community College. Imram Rauf, project engineer for W H Industries, says that the Basic Mathematics training, directed to production supervisors, key shipping/receiving and quality control staff served as "a morale booster and refresher of important math skills."

Radwell International, Inc., a South Jersey-based developer of industrial automation products, embarked on a strategic goal to improve customer service. Training supplied by Gloucester County College formed the centerpiece of that effort. Vice President of Customer Relations, John Radwell, reports that employees have "learned and enjoyed this program" and are seeing "relevance to their jobs."

Training is available to all NJ businesses and can be delivered at business locations or at any of the 67 county college campus facilities statewide. Any New Jersey employer can enroll employees in classes. Businesses are not required to pay tuition or fees for the classes. They are, however, required to pay employees at regular hourly rates during training.

To schedule a class, contact Bob Rosa at NJCCC Consortium on Economic and Workforce Development at [rrosa@njworkforce.org](mailto:rrosa@njworkforce.org) or (609) 393-9000.

**Sponsored by the NJ Community College Consortium**



### NJBIA Basic Skills III

**Get Training for Your Employees At No Charge to Your Company!**

Year three of the NJBIA Basic Skills Workforce Training Program is brought to you by the New Jersey Business & Industry Association, NJ Community College Consortium, and NJ Department of Labor & Workforce Development.

At your work site or at any one of 65 college campuses closest to you, and at no extra charge to your company, your employees can get training in:

- Computer applications
- Communications
- Math and measurement
- English as a second language

To get started call  
**609-393-9009**

**NJBIA**  
**Basic Skills**  
**Workforce**  
**Training Program**

[www.njbias.org/resources/training](http://www.njbias.org/resources/training)

To participate in the program, you must be a registered NJ business and in compliance with NJ tax law.