

Youth Outreach



Two Participants Complete Summer Pre-Apprenticeship

Liam Davis and Billy Clark just proved that a three-week program can open a career path. The two completed the inaugural summer session of the Advanced Manufacturing Pre-Apprenticeship (AMP) program on July 23, earning an industry-recognized credential and formal pre-apprenticeship documentation from Pennsylvania's Apprenticeship Training Office.

AMP is a partnership between [Lawrence Mercer Manufacturers Coalition](#) (LMMC) and [Pennsylvania College of Technology](#) (PCT), the workforce development arm of Penn State. PCT has run the program in area high schools for years, but this summer marked the first time it opened to a broader audience of young adults.

The three-week course paired career and job readiness training with technical lessons through Tooling U, plus plant tours and Q&A sessions at member manufacturers [Ellwood Crankshaft Group](#) (ECG) and [Flowline](#).

For Liam, a junior at West Middlesex High, the interest started in a school materials class. He's now looking at electrical trades as his next step, potentially in a manufacturing environment.

Billy, of Stoneboro, came to the program after months of job-search struggles and said its technical and soft-skills training gave him tools he didn't have before.

ECG plant manager Marshall Rupert, who hosted a plant tour for the cohort, says that kind of talent pipeline matters. He started at ECG 31 years ago as a \$9-an-hour machinist and now leads the plant; entry-level hires today start at \$20 an hour with full benefits. ECG currently employs three co-op students on its floor and retained eight of last year's 10 co-ops.

Initiated regionally by [Forward Lawrence](#) in 2024, LMMC has supported AMP's in-school program to grow from 12 students to 50 in three years. This summer session was funded by US DOL's Work Opportunities for Rural Communities, Round 5 and Apprenticeship Building America, Round 2.

For info on future cohorts, contact Julie at julie@lawrencemercermfg.com.

Subscribe to our Newsletter

If you were forwarded this email and would like to receive LMMC's newsletter directly, please send your name, company affiliation and email address to jim@houckpr.com.

Membership

LMMC Welcomes Two New Manufacturer Members

The Lawrence Mercer Manufacturers Coalition welcomes two new manufacturer members: ILSCO Extrusions and EKHO Infrastructure Solutions. Look for full member features on each company in upcoming editions. For now, here's a quick introduction.

ILSCO Extrusions operates out of Greenville, where it manufactures custom aluminum extruded parts. About half of its output supplies



third-party OEMs, machine shops and distributors, while the other half is intercompany production supporting ILSCO's power connection products. ILSCO Extrusions is a division of ILSCO, a brand within nVent, a \$2.9 billion public electrical company with more than 10,000 employees worldwide.



EKHO Infrastructure Solutions has a production facility in New Castle. The company manufactures noise barriers, retaining walls and precast concrete products, and serves infrastructure and construction projects throughout the United States and Canada.

Welcome, ILSCO Extrusions and EKHO Infrastructure Solutions, to the Lawrence Mercer Manufacturers Coalition. We look forward to sharing more about each company in future newsletters.

Training



Pricing Information
One **FREE** seat to LMMC manufacturing members
\$250 per seat for additional seats & non LMMC manufacturers
Join LMMC to receive member benefits! Email

Tuesdays
4 August - 22 Sept, 2026
12:30pm - 3:30pm

BC3@Lawrence
2658 Ellwood Rd, New Castle PA 16101
In-person only

Last Call: Frontline Leadership Training Starts Aug. 4

Spots remain for LMMC's Frontline Leadership & Supervisory Training with BC3. The eight-week course kicks off Aug. 4 at BC3@Lawrence in New Castle, running weekly through Sept. 22, and only 20 spots are available total.

Regional manufacturers provided input to this manufacturing-only course.

If you've been meaning to register, now is the time. LMMC manufacturer members get one free seat, with additional seats available for \$250. not a member? No problem. Non-member registration is \$250 per participant or join now, receive a free seat and reduced rate annual dues for 2026.

Late registration ends Aug. 1. Don't let your supervisors miss this critical training opportunity to improve their leadership skills and support development of their teams.

[Register here](#) or contact [Julie Michael Smith](#) at LMMC with questions.



Now Hiring: Youth Outreach Specialist

LMMC is hiring a part-time Career Awareness and Youth Outreach Specialist to build awareness of in-demand manufacturing careers among students and young adults across Lawrence and Mercer counties.

This independent contractor role, approximately 20 hours a week, will design classroom presentations, coordinate facility tours and job shadowing, train K-12 teachers on manufacturing career pathways, and build relationships with schools, community colleges and youth-serving organizations. Ideal candidates bring a background in education, workforce development or communications, experience working with K-12 students or youth organizations, and familiarity with manufacturing careers in western Pennsylvania.

Full scope of work and preferred qualifications are available [here](#). If you know someone who would be a great fit, please forward this along or have them submit a letter of interest and resume to Julie Michael Smith at julie@lawrencemercermfg.com.

Calendar

- [Frontline Leadership Training Course](#): August 4 at [BC3@Lawrence](#)