November 25, 2025

*Youth Outreach*

## Manufacturing Message Makes an Immediate Impact

Attending a Manufacturing Day presentation at Riverside Beaver High School set cousins Shain Andrews and Addison Creese on new career paths.

When the session ended, several students approached the presenters to ask more detailed questions about manufacturing careers.

Among them were Andrews, an 18-year-old senior studying carpentry, and Creese, a 17-year-old who took metalworking her junior year and is taking masonry her senior year.

Dave Douglass, Operations Manager at Hall Industries, a founding member of LMMC, shared his contact information and encouraged them to call if they ever wanted a tour.

Andrews said the presentation opened his eyes to the variety of work involved in machining.

"Whenever Dave was going through explaining all the different machines during the presentation and what they could do, I was like, that sounds fun," he said. "It made me realize this might be the kind of work I want to learn."

A Career Path After the Final Bell

Andrews called the next day to express his interest and asked if he could interview. A few hours later, Creese reached out as well. Douglass agreed to meet with both students, and they were hired a few weeks later. Andrews started immediately, while Creese will begin her shifts once she recovers from an injury.

Working 4 to 5 hours after school each weekday, Andrews quickly found his place in the shop.

Even though his responsibilities are foundational, sweeping floors, clearing scrap chips, wiping down machines and running the parts washer, they put him in the middle of a real manufacturing environment where every task helps keep production moving safely and efficiently.

When time allows, he shadows machinists to build new skills. One recent session with his teammate Thomas stood out.

“I actually learned a good bit that day,” he said. “I can read calipers and micrometers pretty good now.”

Douglass said Andrews showed the kind of motivation he hopes to see in young people entering the trade.

“He was able to come in on an in-service day and spend more time learning,” he said. “That shows a lot about his work ethic.”

With continued training and hands-on experience, Andrews is already building the foundation for a future in machining, and Creese will soon begin gaining those same real-world skills.

Together, their paths show how early exposure can spark interest, open doors and lead young people toward lasting opportunities in manufacturing.

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*Membership*

## New Member Profile: Jamestown Coating Technologies

Jamestown Coating Technologies (JCT) brings more than a century of craftsmanship and innovation to the regional manufacturing landscape.

Based in Jamestown, Pa., the sixth-generation family business develops industrial paints and coatings used by manufacturers throughout North America.

Michael Walton, CEO, said the company's long history comes with a deep sense of responsibility to the people who work there.

"We think of it as a family business, but not our family," Walton said. "It's the 50 families that rely on this place."

JCT products support a wide range of markets including heavy equipment, packaging, racking, propane cylinders, pipe and tube, and other fabricated metal products.

Their coatings appear in everyday products, including the foil wraps used by Honey Baked Ham and the single-use aluminum containers sold in northern grocery stores like Wegmans.

JCT also provides coatings used by component manufacturers for Caterpillar and Komatsu, and supplies multiple Blue Rhino facilities across the country.

The company invests heavily in research and development to help customers solve problems, improve performance or maintain consistency across locations.

"If you think about who we're competing against, companies

like PPG and Sherwin Williams, we have to be very innovative to stay competitive," Walton said.

Workforce needs made the company's decision to join LMMC straightforward. Walton emphasized that developing a stronger talent pipeline is the company's most pressing challenge, and partnering with other local manufacturers gives JCT a way to address those shared workforce issues collectively.

LMMC welcomes JCT as it continues building a coordinated industry driven approach to manufacturing workforce development in Lawrence and Mercer counties.

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*Youth Outreach*

## Career Awareness Efforts Move Forward

LMMC convened over 15 stakeholders to discuss Manufacturing Career Awareness initiatives and the projects driving this work.

Representatives from manufacturing, education and community-based organizations reviewed progress and shaped next steps in LMMC's effort to strengthen career awareness for students and career influencers, like parents and educators.

Participants emphasized the need for hyper-local content that showcases real career pathways, local employers and regional training opportunities.

The group advanced work on three priority initiatives: building clear and realistic manufacturing career pathways, expanding a gamified approach to student engagement and developing a youth informed outreach model that incorporates direct input from students.

Gamified tools such as the Ready or Not 2.0 manufacturing simulation and the Innovators Quest board game were recognized as promising strategies for reaching students in ways that are both interactive and relatable.

Stakeholders also encouraged more video storytelling and greater involvement from young adults already working in local facilities.

Anna Barensfeld, LMMC Board President and Vice President of Strategic Initiatives at ELLWOOD, reinforced the momentum behind this work.

“LMMC is doing it differently because we're manufacturers doing it in a manufacturing way,” Barensfeld said. “We’re strategic, and we’re driven by hard work and a focus on results.”

With strong engagement across sectors, LMMC continues to advance a coordinated approach that reflects the needs of employers and inspires the region’s future workforce.

# ELLWOOD Scholarship Supports Future Industrial Maintenance Talent

The ELLWOOD Industrial Maintenance Scholarship is now accepting applications from high school seniors and recent graduates planning to pursue mechatronics or industrial maintenance training at an approved trade school, college or university.

The annual $10,000 scholarship reflects ELLWOOD's long standing commitment to building a strong regional talent pipeline and aligns directly with LMMC's mission to expand awareness of rewarding, sustaining manufacturing careers in Lawrence and Mercer counties.

Local institutions such as Laurel Technical Institute and New Castle School of Trades are among the approved training partners, offering students practical pathways into this high demand field.

Scholarship recipients who complete their programs will have the opportunity to transition into ELLWOOD's Industrial Maintenance Development Program, creating a direct path to full-time work with a leading manufacturer in the region.

LMMC encourages educators, families and community organizations to share this opportunity with students exploring alternatives to the traditional four-year route and looking for career paths that offer strong earning potential and advancement.

For more details or information, email talent@elwd.com.

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## Calendar

- Introduction to Advanced Manufacturing In-Person Course: Dec. 2 - 4 at Penn State Beaver