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May 10, 2021

For Immediate Release

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Fairfield County Workforce Center to Offer Ready to Work Manufacturing Program

(Carroll, OH) – A new program this summer will introduce job seekers to career opportunities in Fairfield County's growing manufacturing industry. The Fairfield County Workforce Center's Ready to Work Manufacturing Program will teach individuals basic skills in manufacturing while connecting them to jobs with local businesses and the support needed to launch their careers.

The program will be facilitated by Ohio University Lancaster, Hocking College, and Eastland Fairfield Career and Technical School. It's open to anyone 18 years or older and funding will be provided for most applicants to cover the \$450 fee as well as mileage to get to the training. It will run from June 7 to July 1 at the new Fairfield County Workforce Center, 4465 Coonpath Rd. NE, Carroll, OH and is sponsored in part by South Central Power through Ohio's Electric Cooperatives.

"Manufacturing has the highest average wage of any industry in Fairfield County," said Rick Szabrak, Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development Director. "Many people still think manufacturing is a dirty, dark, and dangerous field. We want to show them that's not the case and great opportunity awaits."

Participants will receive certification in OSHA-10 safety protocols and CPR. They will also learn about welding, forklift operation, introduction to robotics, management skills, and basic assembly. Career advisors will assist them in completing resumes and applying for jobs. There will be tours of local manufacturers as well as a hiring event at the end of the course. Those hired may be eligible to receive mileage reimbursement to work.

"If you're interested in manufacturing or you're graduating high school and haven't picked a career, this is a great option," said Sean Terrell, Dean of Workforce Development at Hocking College. "And you'll have a career advisor that will work with you not just during the training, but after you're hired at a local manufacturer."

Beyond the manufacturing skills that will be learned, there will be opportunities to gain soft skills that employers expect to see in their new hires.

"The goal is to help students get ready to work," said Jarrod Tudor, Dean of Ohio University Lancaster. "People can just go get a job but this program was created so they'll be prepared. This program will help teach these students job skills. Plus, there are additional incentives to complete the program and start working locally."

For more information visit www.FairfieldCountyOhioWorkforceCenter.gov or contact Amanda Lemke at LemkeA@Hocking.edu.

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