

Bevill State offers new manufacturing training program

By NICOLE SMITH

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Bevill State Community College will begin a new program Monday that will allow people to develop skills in the manufacturing industry.

The Jasper, Fayette and Hamilton campuses will be providing certified production technician (CPT) training through the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC) assessment system. Students who receive CPT certification will be prepared for entry-level positions as production workers in manufacturing.

The state-funded, eight-week program is free to those who want to participate.

“It’s mainly automotive driven, and it’s part of the automotive initiative from the Alabama Community College System,” Bevill State MSSC instructor Matt Bradshaw said.

He said the program will provide a good foundation for someone to begin a career in the manufacturing industry and receive further on the job training.

In addition, as Jasper continues to recruit new industry, he said automotive training is especially critical. Bradshaw explained that many people in our area are not properly trained for positions being offered in the county, particularly at Yorozu’s automotive stamping facility.

“I think only 75 percent of Yorozu’s employees live in Walker County, and I feel like that should be higher, but no one has automotive experience because it’s new to the area,” Bradshaw said. “When a supplier comes here, they’re looking for help. ... This program is here to fill the gap in Walker County where they do not have the experience, to give them the formal training.”

The CPT program will involve online coursework, as well as one weekly class session.

The first part of the program, safety module, addresses customer needs, organization and safety standards. Next will be the maintenance awareness module to describe electrical circuits, power systems, lubrication, bearing and couplings, belt and chain drives, machine control concepts, machine automation and high vacuum systems.

The manufacturing processes and production module will come next to teach mechanical principles and a variety of processes, and the quality module will lastly explain blueprint reading, audits, dimensional gauging and other topics.

Students do not pre-register for the program; rather, orientation and registration in Jasper will be Monday, Oct. 1, from 5 to 9 p.m. at the college’s training facility off Industrial Parkway, 3512 Industrial Drive.

Elizabeth Owings, automotive workforce initiative coordinator for the CPT program, can provide orientation dates for other campus locations. She can be reached at 800-648-3271, ext. 4713.

Owings encourages people who may be interested in the certification to take part in the program while training is free of charge.

“That’s a huge component, because, otherwise, this program would be over \$2,000 per student,” Owings said. “It would be very beneficial to take advantage of this now, because we don’t know that the grant money will always be there to pay for people to complete the training.”

She said another training session will also be held in January.

Registration as a Bevill State student is not required to take advantage of the workforce training, and participants do not receive college credit.

Bradshaw said Bevill State is one of only four colleges in our area offering CPT certification.



BSCC Manufacturing Skill Standards Council instructor Matt Bradshaw stands with Skill Boss Training Equipment at the college.
Photo Special to the Eagle

