



## Jackson Area Manufacturers Association (JAMA) Academy for Manufacturing Careers

On April 21, 2005, JAMA sent out a press release announcing the official launch of the Academy for Manufacturing Careers, a “unique program [that] delivers advanced manufacturing skilled trades training through the collaborative effort of JAMA, area manufacturers, multiple educational partners and South Central Michigan Works!”

Since running that first sold-out Welding class, the Academy has grown by leaps and bounds. Today, the Academy is not only a U.S. Department of Labor certified Registered Apprenticeship Training Program, it’s also a Michigan Regional Skills Alliance, a state-licensed Proprietary Trade School, and is recognized regionally and nationally as a best practice model for apprenticeship programs and industry-driven training. JAMA has been invited to present the Academy model at various state, regional and national conferences. Most recently, Michigan’s Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth (DELEG) has partnered with JAMA to launch a satellite of the Academy in Genesee and Shiawassee Counties to help Flint-area manufacturers with their workforce training needs.

Here in south-central Michigan, JAMA offers full apprenticeship program training for CNC Machinists, Tool & Die Makers, Mold Makers, Machine Builders, Machine Repair Technicians, Industrial Maintenance Mechanics and Industrial Electricians. The Academy also provides shorter time certificate training programs, primarily designed for dislocated workers and unemployed individuals, in welding, CNC machining, machine maintenance and screw machine operation. JAMA’s popular front-line Supervision program, now in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year of operation, has also been shifted over to management via the Academy. And last but not least, the Academy provides a broad range of customized training, as well as safety training as a MIOSHA partner and the host of company improvement training—including ISO quality, Lean, Six Sigma, costing, market diversification and more—in partnership with the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center out of Plymouth.

In addition to all of this adult training, the Academy also runs a number of area youth programs, including the popular *I Can Make It Camp* summer overnight camp for 4<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> graders, *Machining U*, a manufacturing summer day camp for 7<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> graders and the Gateway Academy summer engineering technology day camp launched in partnership with the Society of Manufacturing Engineers and tied directly to the middle school Gateway to Technology and Project Lead the Way high school in-classroom national programs.

All of these activities have had measurable positive impact in Jackson. To date, the Academy has offered nearly 200 skilled trades training classes serving over 2,400 adult registrants and over 50 area companies. Within those numbers are 100 active apprentices and nearly a dozen apprenticeship graduates. Those numbers translate into a more highly skilled, productive workforce, resulting in a serious economic development business retention and attraction tool.

For more information about the Academy for Manufacturing Careers and its various programs, please contact Annette Norris at 517-782-8268 or [anorris@enterprise.org](mailto:anorris@enterprise.org).