



Amplifying Montana's Advanced  
Manufacturing and Innovation Industry

June 2013

## TOGETHER. SHAPING THE FUTURE.

Exciting progress is happening at FVCC thanks in large part to the guidance and information we've received from industry and community partners like you. As you know, last October FVCC was awarded \$3.1 million from the Department of Labor to implement training and education that will increase the competitive strength of our manufacturing workforce and industry sector.



Our five strategies at the core of our project plan include:

1. **Creating short-term certificate programs in advanced manufacturing;**
2. **Initiating the use of workforce navigators to reinforce alignment between the college and public workforce development system partners;**
3. **Strengthening entrepreneurship training to encourage growth of our region's small manufacturing cluster;**
4. **Adopting the National Career Readiness Certificate assessment; and**
5. **Transitioning to a technology-enabled, competency-based model of developmental mathematics.**

We want to keep you engaged and informed in our progress toward implementing these strategies, so we've created this quarterly newsletter. We'll include some additional resources available for startup and existing businesses in Northwest Montana.

I welcome your feedback. Feel free to call or email me.

Susie Burch  
Executive Director, Economic Development and Continuing Education  
(406)756-3839, [sburch@fvcc.edu](mailto:sburch@fvcc.edu)

## ANNOUNCING ADVANCED MANUFACTURING CERTIFICATES Programs to be offered Fall 2013

The advanced manufacturing stackable credentials were designed with extensive input from community manufacturers to enhance the local workforce market. The credentials begin with Level One, which focuses on pre-employment and the cooperation, communication and critical thinking skills needed for dynamic team interactions. The Level One curriculum is the same for all advanced manufacturing students. After completion of



Level One, students can choose to follow one of several manufacturing tracks.

Level Two is the entry into the technical skills for industrial maintenance, machining and electronics. The Level Three program is developed to provide advanced skills in the respective areas. The Level Four capstone semester, when developed, will be a project-oriented program with areas of design, redesign, fabrication and more developed experiences with equipment.

[Click here](#) to view the certificates.

## THE ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TEAM AT FVCC



**Jori Bullemer: Advisor/Navigator**  
756-3905 [jbullemer@fvcc.edu](mailto:jbullemer@fvcc.edu)

Jori advises students in the occupational trades programs. She joins FVCC as a former Flathead Job Service AMAMII partner and workforce training consultant. She offers advising both on campus and at local workforce services locations to connect students to employment and training programs and industry opportunities.

*Joining Jori on the navigator team later in June are William Richards and Greg Bruns. Greg will work out of the FVCC Lincoln County Campus in Libby. Contact information for William and Greg will be available soon on FVCC's website.*



**Dan Leatzow, Ph.D.: Specialist Advanced Manufacturing**  
756-4187, [dleatzow@fvcc.edu](mailto:dleatzow@fvcc.edu)

Dan is the industrial liaison for FVCC to ensure the advanced manufacturing programs are imparting current, industry-relevant skills to students for success in Montana's manufacturing industry. Dan also is a career and technical ed instructor in FVCC's industrial machine technology program.



**Jill Seigmund: Entrepreneurship Coordinator**  
756-3834, [jseigmund@fvcc.edu](mailto:jseigmund@fvcc.edu)

Jill develops entrepreneurship programs for the community and connects entrepreneurs and startup businesses with resources to help them launch and expand their enterprises.



**Chris Parson: Director, Northwest Montana Small Business Development Center**  
756-3836, [cparson@fvcc.edu](mailto:cparson@fvcc.edu)

Chris offers free, confidential, one-on-one counseling to start-up and existing businesses in Flathead, Lincoln and Lake Counties. Chris also teaches courses designed to improve business strategy, financial management, marketing and other technical skills.



**Jodi Smith: Director, Workforce Training**  
756-3833, [jsmith@fvcc.edu](mailto:jsmith@fvcc.edu)

Jodi oversees all of the non-credit business and computer workshops in the Continuing Education Center and coordinates customized training for businesses on any topic you can imagine. Jodi also serves as the statewide coordinator for the Montana Superhost Statewide Customer Service Training Program.



**Bill Nicholson: Field Engineer, MSU Montana Manufacturing Extension Center**  
756-4185, [bnicholson@coe.montana.edu](mailto:bnicholson@coe.montana.edu)

MMEC's sole objective is to help manufacturing companies throughout Montana become more successful and profitable. Bill works directly with clients to provide expertise and services tailored to their critical manufacturing and engineering needs.

## GRANT DOLLARS AT WORK

"Amplifying Montana's Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Industry" Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grants Program Grant Agreement #TC-23760-12-60-A-30

### New Equipment

The following machines have been purchased with Department of Labor grant dollars to enhance the new advanced manufacturing courses:

One HAAS TM-1 CNC Vertical Machining Center;

Three HAAS TL-1 CNC Lathes;

One Zeiss Eclipse 2828 CMM with Calypso Software Platform;

Three Vertical Manual Mills with Digital Read Outs and Power Feed;

Six Manual Metal Lathes.

FVCC will soon be home to a 3D printer thanks to the support of the Flathead County Economic Development Authority. The 3D printer will be integrated into the advanced manufacturing and entrepreneurship courses.

### New Classrooms

Renovations to the Occupational Trades Building have begun and will be completed by the end of the summer. A second floor with two classrooms and four offices will be added as part of the renovation.

### New Students

FVCC is marketing the new advanced manufacturing certificate programs nationally, including on such websites as ChicagoTribune.com, DenverPost.com, LATimes.com, NYTimes.com, education.com, greatschools.org, and thousands more. Through contextual display targeting placement, we are able to get our message out to Internet users within our target area who are viewing content with select keywords, such as "advanced manufacturing," "electronics technician," "industrial maintenance," "CNC training, and more. A monthly investment of \$1,000 guarantees us 80,000 impressions on sites offered by our advertising agent.

## BUSINESS CONSULTING SERVICES

Small Business Development Center and the Montana Manufacturing Extension Center located at FVCC

### **You Are Not Alone!**

*Chris Parson, Director of the Northwest Montana Small Business Development Center*



The Northwest Montana Small Business Development Center (SBDC) located at Flathead Valley Community College provides one-on-one confidential counseling to Flathead, Lake and Lincoln county businesses. We adhere to strict confidence, enabling us to work very closely with our clients and dive down to the meat of the challenges or issues they are having. Our mission is to guide existing and start-up

businesses toward profitability in order to create jobs and economic prosperity in Montana. The Northwest Montana SBDC provides the following core services: [More....](#)

## The Montana Manufacturing Extension Center: Coaching for Success Since 1996

*Bill Nicholson, Field Engineer for MMEC*



An affiliate of the **NIST** Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Whether your employee numbers are fewer than six, peak at 60 or reach more than 600, the Montana Manufacturing Extension Center (MMEC) is one of the critical manufacturing resources located at the Flathead Valley Community College that can help your company grow. Bill Nicholson is the local field engineer for MMEC, whose staff across the state helps fulfill the land grant outreach mission of the Montana State University in Bozeman. Its other offices are located in Missoula, Helena and Bozeman. MMEC also is an affiliate of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, enabling it to tap into a nationwide network of resources for improving the productivity, economic competitiveness and technological capabilities of America's manufacturers. [More...](#)

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Strategic Growth Planning Workshop

*Presented by the Montana Manufacturing Extension Center and the Northwest*

*Montana Small Business Development Center*

June 12 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. FVCC

[Click here](#) for workshop details

Preregistration is required through FVCC Continuing Education: (406) 756-3832 or [fvcc.edu/continuing-education.html](http://fvcc.edu/continuing-education.html)

### Manufacturers and Educators Forum

*Join us to discuss new curriculum, employer needs and future internships.*

August 1 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. FVCC Arts & Technology Building, Room 139

### "Amplifying Montana's Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Industry"

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