RCBI has strengthened its workforce training programs with the addition of six experienced staff members, Director and CEO Charlotte Weber announced.

“We believe these very well prepared newcomers will be major assets as RCBI assumes a leadership position in helping West Virginia meet its growing need for a well trained, motivated workforce,” Ms. Weber noted.

The new staff members are:

**Michael L. Bryant**

Bryant, from Huntington, is an information systems specialist and is based at the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center in Huntington.

A graduate of Barboursville (W.Va.) High School, he earned a B.S. degree in computer science and software development from Marshall University in 1998 and an M.S. in technology management, also from Marshall, in 2004.


He was employed at Strictly Business Computer Systems as a senior software engineer from 2001 to 2007 when he became a contractor for Fenwick Technologies and then worked with Global AlertLink as a senior software engineer. Bryant also had served as an adjunct faculty member in the Marshall Integrated Science and Technology Department since 1998.

**Gerald A. (Sonny) Bunnell Jr.**

Bunnell, from Clarksburg, W.Va., is a CNC machinist and machinist instructor stationed at the RCBI Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center in Bridgeport.

A graduate of Victory High School in Clarksburg, he attended the Fairmont State College Aviation Maintenance Program in 1999 and earned an Associate Degree in Machinist Technology from Marshall Community College in 2002 after completing RCBI's Machinist Technology Program in 2001.

Bunnell began his career in manufacturing in 1974 as a first-class machinist with National Machinery Co. in Clarksburg, later working with several other manufacturing firms in Clarksburg and Fairmont. He joined RCBI after working as lead machinist at FMW Composite Systems, Inc. at Bridgeport since 2002. Bunnell brings to RCBI more than 30 years experience in sheet metal layout, blueprint reading, CNC programming, tool and die making, and repair and prototype work.

The Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) will present a Virtual GibbsCAM training class Dec. 11-12 at its Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center in Bridgeport. Additional sessions are planned for the first quarter of 2009.

The two-day training session, which includes hands-on activities on the shop floor, will be conducted by RCBI’s experienced instructors. Attendees who successfully complete the training will receive a certificate.

The training will include comprehensive coverage of the GibbsCAM lathe module, Production mill module and geometry creation, and range from basic to advanced milling and an introduction to 3D. GibbsCAM software is used to program CNC (computer-numerical-controlled) machines and their controllers. GibbsCAM supports 2- through 5-axis milling, turning, mill/turning and Wire EDM functions.

Companies who send multiple trainees to either of the training sessions will receive a discount, according to Paul Beatty, senior manufacturing engineer and site manager at RCBI Bridgeport. To register or receive additional information, contact Beatty at (304) 848-2291 or 800-469-RCBI (7224).
RCBI applauds West Virginia legislators

By Charlotte Weber

BRIDGEPORT – The West Virginia Legislature meets in a 60-day regular session each year. And each month while the Legislature is not in regular session, it conducts interim meetings. These interim meetings provide public hearings on important issues and give lawmakers a chance to plan the next year’s regular session.

Some years ago the legislators adopted a practice of taking some of their interim sessions on the road. We at the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) want to applaud the Legislature for investing the time to become better acquainted with the many attributes that make West Virginia a great place to work and live. It makes good sense for our lawmakers to take a firsthand look at progress around the Mountain State.

North Central West Virginia was in the spotlight when the Legislature came to Harrison County for an interim session held September 7-9.

We’re proud that a visit to our Bridgeport Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center was one of the stops included on the lawmakers’ busy agenda during that visit.

As West Virginia’s Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, RCBI helps make manufacturers and entrepreneurs more competitive by supplying them access to high-tech specialized production equipment and training.

RCBI operates Advanced Manufacturing Technology Centers -- in Huntington, Charleston, Bridgeport and Rocket Center in the Eastern Panhandle. Our centers offer access to technology and technical expertise, including workforce training, 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

Our Machinist Technology Program is helping supply the trained machinists that today’s manufacturers so desperately need – and is the only program in the nation that offers graduates the opportunity to earn both a national machinist certification and a two-year associate degree in one year.

RCBI’s assistance to companies often results in lucrative contracts with such well-known companies as Toyota, Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Northrop Grumman, and GE Aircraft, as well as with NASA and the Department of Defense. To date, we have helped companies secure more than $247 million in competitive contracts.

Since RCBI was established almost 20 years ago, we have worked with more than 4,200 companies. Those companies employ nearly 71,000 individuals at an annual payroll approaching $1.8 billion.

At RCBI, we’re indeed pleased and honored to have played a role in the dramatic economic progress that’s been recorded in North Central West Virginia. And we look forward to being a big part of the region’s even more exciting future.

Charlotte Weber is Director & CEO of the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI).

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Ted Cains

Coming to RCBI from Upper Sandusky, Ohio, Cains is a manufacturing specialist and technical trainer, headquartered at the Huntington center.

Cains graduated from East Carter High School, Grayson, Ky., in 1980, and earned an associate degree in technology management from the University of Findlay (Ohio) in 2006. He began his career in manufacturing in 1985 with Dana Coupled Products in Upper Sandusky. He joined RCBI from Cooper Tire and Rubber Co. where he had worked as an engineer II since 1997. He brings the use of 3-D modeling, 5-axis programming using CAD/CAM software and various other programming skills to RCBI.

He and his family planned to move from Upper Sandusky to Denton, Ky., in Carter County.

Lucinda Curry

Ms. Curry, from Duck in Clay County, W.Va., is coordinator of workforce development and technical trainer for RCBI. Her office is located at the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center in South Charleston; however, her work with West Virginia’s workforce will take her to every corner of the state.

Prior to accepting the RCBI assignment, Ms. Curry was director of enrollment for Mountain State University in its Beckley headquarters, having joined the school in 2005 as lead recruiting coordinator for cohort education. She worked for West

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Rebekah Marie Duke, Leonard J. Tartamella and Paul R. Beatty earned RCBI Employee of the Month honors for August, September and October, respectively.

**Rebekah Duke**

Ms. Duke is financial assistant and is stationed at the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center in Huntington but also works with the centers in South Charleston, Bridgeport and Rocket Center.

“Rebekah is quiet, effective, reliable and always pleasant,” RCBI Director and CEO Charlotte Weber said. “She relates very well with her co-workers and approaches her job willingly and efficiently. It’s a pleasure to have her as a member of the RCBI staff.”

A 1999 graduate of Lawrence County High School in Louisa, Ky., Ms. Duke earned her Bachelor of Business Administration degree, with an emphasis in accounting, from Morehead (Ky.) State University in 2005.

Prior to joining RCBI in 2007, she was employed with Bow-Mech Services in Ashland, Ky., and with the auditing firm Ware & Hall in Huntington.

She and her husband, David Lee Duke, Jr., make their home in Ashland. She is the daughter of Pearlene D. Richie of Ashland and Nick J. Richie of Louisa.

Her interests include reading, playing the piano and walking in the park.

**Leonard Tartamella**

Tartamella, of Nutter Fort, W.Va., is a senior manufacturing project engineer based at RCBI's Composites Technology and Training Center at Bridgeport.

“Len is a very capable, highly skilled, effective team member of RCBI,” Ms. Weber said. “Len has made significant contributions through his project work, training, production assistance and commitment to customer excellence. He works daily in a team effort to keep our program moving forward in an efficient manner while demonstrating excellent leadership.”

A 1989 graduate of St. Joseph High School in Natrona Heights, Pa., Tartamella earned an associate degree in specialized technology from Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics in 1992. He worked in experimental aircraft fabrication from 1992 to 1994 at New Composite Matrix Designs in Sommerset, Pa., and became involved with composite commercial aircraft from 1994 to 2004 with Bombardier Commercial Aviation Services at Bridgeport. Prior to joining the RCBI staff in 2006 he worked for two years in military and defense weapon system platform engineering at Aurora Flight Sciences, also at Bridgeport.

He received Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Gold Awards for excellence in training in 2001 and 2002 and the FAA Silver Award in 1999.

His interests include hand fabricating fishing boats and fishing, camping, and unmanned aerial vehicles. He serves as an assistant in the Boy Scouts of America program.

Tartamella and his wife, Susan, are the parents of a son, Mason, 6.

**Paul Beatty**

Beatty of Lost Creek, W.Va., has been a member of the RCBI staff since 1998. He is senior manufacturing engineer and site manager at the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center at Bridgeport.

“Paul demonstrates his dedication to helping RCBI meet the needs of the region’s manufacturers on a daily basis,” Ms. Weber noted. “His vast experience and talents are major assets as we extend and expand RCBI’s role in training the West Virginia workforce for the challenges of 21st Century manufacturing technologies.”

Beatty earned his B.S. degree in mathematics from West Virginia University and his M.A. degree in higher education from George Washington University. He also has had extensive training in CNC (computer-numerical-controlled) programming and operation.

Before joining RCBI he was employed by Weirton Steel Corp. for 19 years, UCAR Carbon for two years and Corhart Refractories for two years.

Beatty is the father of two daughters, Jennifer and Stephanie, and grandfather to Mileena, Logan and Keith.

His spare time interests include camping, hiking, hunting, fishing and biking.
Grafton High students visit RCBI Bridgeport facility

BRIDGEPORT, W.Va. – Twenty-six students from Grafton High School got a close look at high-tech machining during a recent visit to the Bridgeport Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center operated by the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI). They were accompanied by the school’s machinist instructor, Matt Cole.

Displaying and explaining the center’s array of state-of-the-art lathes and mills, including CNC (computer-numerical-controlled) equipment were veteran machinist Bernie Wilson, who instructs students in the RCBI Machinist Technology Program, and Bridgeport site manager Paul Beatty.

The students toured both the metals and composites shop areas. Cole, who is in his first year at Grafton High, said the students were impressed with not only the machinery but with the facility’s professional atmosphere. “They saw the high-tech machinery and were amazed,” he remarked.

Following the tour, Larry Cartmill, recruiter, outlined its different phases of the Machinist Technology Program, which has graduated nearly 250 students since its inception. About 90 percent of those completing the program have been placed in machinist jobs. At least nine of the Grafton students expressed an interest in enrolling in the 2009 class, Cartmill said.

RCBI partners with Marshall Community & Technical College, enabling those machinist students who choose to do so to earn associate degrees. Financial aid is available to those enrolling through the college.

Cartmill noted that there are an estimated 33,000 openings for machinists nationwide.

Those wishing additional information may visit www.rcbi.org or telephone Cartmill at (304) 781-1678.

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Virginia Junior College in Charleston from 1989 to 2005 in several positions involving admissions, workforce development and finally as assistant director. In addition, she served as office manager for the University of Southern California European Division in West Germany from 1979 to 1981.

A 1979 graduate of South Charleston High School, Ms. Curry graduated with honors from Mountain State University in 2000, earning her bachelor’s degree in organization leadership, management and development. She is currently enrolled in the Master of Arts Interdisciplinary Studies Program at Mountain State and is a member of several professional organizations including the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals, Workforce Investment Board Mid-Ohio Valley and Sigma Delta Beta, the International Honor Society in Business, Management and Administration.

Steve Parsons

A CNC machinist and welder from Ashford, W.Va., Parsons will work out of the RCBI Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center in South Charleston.

A 1994 graduate of Sherman High School in Seth, W.Va., he had worked since 1996 as a machinist and welder at Parsons Machine Co. in Ashford. He received additional training at RCBI’s South Charleston facility in CNC operation. Parsons is skilled in manual machining, CNC operation and setup, machine troubleshooting, maintenance and repairs, and welding.

Rick C. Smoot

Smoot, of Proctorville, Ohio, also has been assigned to the Huntington center. He is serving as an instructor in RCBI’s Machinist Technology Program.


Smoot came to RCBI from McCorkle Machine and Engineering, Huntington, where he had worked as a CNC (computer-numerical-controlled) machinist and leadman since 1999. He began his career as a machinist and leadman at Southern Ohio Machine and Repair, Chesapeake, from 1978 to 1987 when he joined D&E Industries, Huntington, where he worked as programmer/leadman, CNC operator and first class machinist. Smoot then served as a CNC technician at Richwood Industries, Huntington, in 1998 and 1999.
Machinist training attracts students from wide area

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. — A record 33 students are enrolled in the 2008 entering class of the Machinist Technology Program (MTP) offered by the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI). This represents an 83 percent increase from the 2007 figure, RCBI Director and CEO Charlotte Weber announced. Most are enrolled in the associate degree program provided in cooperation with Marshall Community and Technical College and Potomac State College of West Virginia University. All will work toward achieving their national certification from the National Institute for Metal Working Skills.

The 2008 class, upon its graduation, will bring the total number entering the West Virginia labor market to close to 250 highly skilled machinists. More than 90 percent of the graduates to date have begun careers in industry.

Those students completing the program are expected to find an array of career opportunities open to them since there is a national shortage of machinists estimated at more than 30,000.

“We’re excited about the growth in our Machinist Technology Program,” Ms. Weber said. “Manufacturers throughout our region have a great need for additional machinists to compete both nationally and on a global basis. We’re gratified that RCBI is in a position to help them meet that demand.”

In fact, RCBI has hired additional instructors with an eye toward continuing growth in the program.

The machinists-to-be are in training at RCBI Advanced Manufacturing Technology Centers in Huntington, Bridgeport and Rocket Center. Most of those in Huntington and Bridgeport are enrolled through Marshall Community and Technical College, while most at Rocket Center are enrolled through nearby Potomac State College of WVU at Keyser.

Enrollment in the associate degree programs enables students to apply for student financial aid.

Although most of the students come from throughout West Virginia, the RCBI program attracts students from nearby communities in Ohio, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Those coming from distant communities are eligible to live in residence hall rooms at Marshall University or Potomac State College.

The RCBI program is the only one in the state providing opportunities to earn both an associate degree and national certification by the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS), Ms. Weber said. The coupling of the associate degree and national certification prepares students to advance into machining work and also helps them advance into more sophisticated manufacturing work, Ms. Weber noted.

Those wishing additional information may visit www.rcbi.org or call program recruiter Larry Cartmill at (304) 781-1678.

‘Going green’ produces Homecoming award for RCBI

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. — At left, RCBI staffers Tracy McDowell and Eddie Fisher feed used plastic bottles into the “Herd Processing Plant” to recycle them for further uses. At right, Sheila Harmon, Rebekah Duke and Crystal Maynard, clad in their lab coats and armed with clipboards, oversee an RCBI wind power device. It’s all part of the “green” theme in Marshall University’s Homecoming decorations contest. The lobby was filled with environmentally friendly exhibits, including our very own rain forest, earning RCBI the “Most Creative – Large Office” award in the competition. This was the fourth year in which the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center in Huntington entered the annual contest and received an award for its efforts. As usual, Tracy spearheaded the winning effort!

Advanced Lean Manufacturing is now being offered at RCBI

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. — Two members of the staff of the Robert C. Byrd Institute, West Virginia’s Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, have earned Lean Scheduling certification, RCBI Director and CEO Charlotte Weber announced.

Director of Quality Services Erica Cheetham and Eddie Fisher, Quality Systems and Technical Trainer, have achieved Lean Scheduling certification offered by Harris Lean Systems in Charlotte, N.C.

“Achievement of certification confirms RCBI’s capability in linking information, material and people flow in a facility-wide Lean implementation,” Ms. Weber said. “We’re proud of Ms. Cheetham and Mr. Fisher for their excellent work in this sector of manufacturing, and for continuing to upgrade their considerable skills.”

Lean Manufacturing has become increasingly popular in the United States in recent years as well as in West Virginia, Ms. Weber noted. RCBI has provided management systems services to clients throughout the United States.

In addition to Lean Manufacturing, RCBI offers LeanSigma training, Quality Management Systems assistance on International and Industry-specific Standards, Environmental Management Systems assistance, Auditor Training, and a number of soft skills courses.
Kentucky students see advanced technology at work in RCBI visit

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. — Twenty students in the machinist program at Paul Blazer High School, Ashland, Ky., visited the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) in Huntington, W.Va., recently for a close-up look at some of the most sophisticated machining equipment available to the nation’s manufacturers. Here, Ted Cains, manufacturing specialist and technical trainer, discusses the intricacies of machining an oil and gas well part with students Iesha Houston, left, and Megan Wallace. The students also learned about RCBI’s Machinist Technology Program which prepares individuals for careers in manufacturing. RCBI operates Advanced Manufacturing Technology Centers in Huntington, South Charleston, Bridgeport and Rocket Center, all in West Virginia, to serve the region’s manufacturers.

West Virginia shows growth

CHARLESTON — West Virginia was one of 12 states to experience an increase in economic activity between May and August, according to a report issued in early October by the Rockefeller Institute of Government.

The state’s economy grew by 2.2 percent during that period, followed by Louisiana, with 0.7 percent growth, and Texas, at 0.6 percent.

Our Mission

The Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing provides statewide and regional access to advanced technology and technical training to small- and medium-sized manufacturers. The mission of RCBI is to develop a quality, just-in-time, supplier base for the Department of Defense, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the commercial sector.

Calendar...

December
New Coordinate Measurement Machine (CMM) expected to arrive at Composites Technology & Training Center, Bridgeport, in December. Basic training tentatively scheduled Dec. 15-19; advanced training tentatively scheduled Jan. 12-16.

Dec. 2 – 70 students from Poca High School to tour RCBI Huntington Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center. To register or for additional information, contact Paul Beatty, site manager – (304) 848-2291 or 800-469-RCBI (7224).

Dec. 10 – Tech Prep Day at Marshall University; technical program recruiter Larry Cartmill to represent RCBI.

Dec. 11-12 – Virtual GibbsCAM training class at Bridgeport Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center. To register contact Paul Beatty at (304) 848-2291 or 800-469-RCBI (7224).

January
Jan. 12 – New Beginning AutoCAD class scheduled to begin. To reserve a place in the class, contact Lucinda Curry at lcurry@rcbi.org or telephone (304) 690-2343.

Jan. 20 – Introduction to CNC Machining, Operation, Programming – Level 1 course begins. Course runs 13 weeks, one night per week. Cost $600. To register, call RCBI Huntington – (304) 781-1625.