A tooling seminar is scheduled Wednesday, Nov. 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the RCBI Huntington Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center. Presented in conjunction with tool manufacturer Sandvik Coromant, the seminar will showcase newly implemented and proven technology that provides manufacturers high performance machining capabilities designed to solve their production tooling concerns.

Seating is limited and early registration is recommended. Registration deadline is Nov. 6.

Representatives from Sandvik as well as RCBI's own experienced technical staff will be on hand to demonstrate cutting tools and equipment use.

The tooling seminar is another in a continuing series of efforts by RCBI to provide access to state-of-the-art and state-of-the-market production equipment, technologies, tooling and software to manufacturers so they can compete and succeed in the global market.

For additional information or to register, contact Brian Brown, senior manufacturing engineer and site manager at RCBI Huntington, at 304.781.1689 or 800.469.RCBI (7224), or send an e-mail to bbrown@rcbi.org.

CLARKSBURG, W.Va. – The Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) and United Technical Center (UTC) executed a Memorandum of Understanding Tuesday, Oct. 13, to offer welding training. Under the agreement, RCBI will supply the instructor and enroll students while UTC will provide equipment and facilities. Pictured, from left, are RCBI Director and CEO Charlotte Weber, Instructor Eric Younkins and UTC Director Joan Smith. The 16-week course, designed to help alleviate a major shortage of welders, will begin Jan. 4, 2010, at UTC, located near Clarksburg on U.S. 19. The course can be taken independently to prepare the student to test for state certification in shielded metal arc welding or as part of RCBI’s comprehensive welding program which includes TIG, MIG and Stick welding, as well as flux-cored arc welding. Those wishing more information or to register may contact RCBI’s Lucinda Curry at 304.720.7742 or 800.469.7224, or send an e-mail to register@rcbi.org. Enrollment is limited. Financial assistance is available to those who qualify.
RCBI veterans Rick Martin, Tom Minnich and George Whelan were selected as Employee of the Month for June, August and September, respectively, RCBI Director and CEO Charlotte Weber announced.

Rick Martin

Director of Engineering Martin, who is based at the Huntington Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, resides at nearby Pedro, Ohio.

“As director of engineering, Rick has major responsibilities at RCBI,” Ms. Weber said. “With 36 years of experience in a diverse range of manufacturing and engineering positions, he is well qualified to handle those responsibilities and he does so with enthusiasm and dedication. His eternal optimism makes him a pleasure to work with.”

A native of Pittsboro, Miss., and a 1973 graduate of the University of Mississippi with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree, he began his career with Ethyl Corp. From there he moved on to Weyerhaeuser Corp., the Mississippi State Highway Department, Southern Wood Piedmont and Baxter Travenol Laboratories.

Martin came to the Tri-State area in 1986 as engineering manager at Coopervision/Cilco, now Alcon Laboratories, on W.Va. 2 near Huntington. He served as engineering manager at Adel Fasteners from 1992 to 1994 when he joined the RCBI staff. He received an outstanding performance award from Baxter Travenol for automated equipment and a performance bonus from Adel Fasteners.

His interests include motorcycle riding, golf and shooting. He and his wife, Lila, are the parents of three children, Haley, Joshua and Stephanie.

Tom Minnich

Minnich, who joined the RCBI staff in January 1999, currently serves as director of business and project development. He also is executive director of the RCBI Composites Technology & Training Center in Bridgeport, W.Va.

He spent more than 14 years with the U.S. Department of Defense, including extensive experience as deputy of acquisition in the Program Executive Office for the Naval Air Systems Command’s Assault Special Mission Helicopter Program in Arlington, Va.

A resident of Charleston and a native of Gassaway, Braxton County, W.Va., Minnich earned an undergraduate degree from Marshall University, where he also attended graduate school. He later attended Morris Harvey College (now University of Charleston) and George Mason University, as well as the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif.

He was appointed as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Mid-Atlantic Technology Center representative for West Virginia in 2000. He also serves on the boards of the Mine Safety Technology Consortium and the West Virginia Governor’s Energy Task Force.

Minnich is the father of two grown children, Kathryn Conti of Philippi, W.Va., and Thomas Minnich of Jane Lew, W.Va. He and his wife, Deborah, have been married since 1999.

In his spare time, Minnich enjoys hunting, fishing and camping.

“Tom Minnich’s experience in the Department of Defense has been extremely valuable to RCBI and, in turn, the manufacturers with whom we work,” Ms. Weber said. “He has been able to help our manufacturers establish connections with DoD suppliers who have need for their quality services, parts, design and equipment. His greatest value, however, lies in his attitude — his willingness to undertake any task we ask of him and his determination to overcome any challenges he encounters.”

George Whelan

Whelan, of Weston, Lewis County, serves as associate manager for public information and is based at the RCBI Bridgeport Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center. He is a 1969 graduate of Lewis County High School and earned a degree in journalism from Marshall University in 1973.

Whelan joined the RCBI staff in 2002. He began his career as sports editor of the Buckhannon (W.Va.) Record in 1975. From 1977 to 1981 he was news and sports editor for WHAW-WSSN radio in Weston and sportswriter for the Weston Democrat newspaper. After a stint as Lewis County magistrate from 1981 to 1986, he returned to the Weston Democrat as sports and news editor until 2002. As a newsman, he earned several awards from the West Virginia Press Association.

He has been active in the Weston community, serving on the boards of directors of the Lewis County Chamber of Commerce, Mountain Lakes Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Citizens Bank of Weston. He is also a member of the Downtown Athletic Club in Weston and has coached Little League baseball and basketball in Lewis County for 37 years.

As a result of his community activities, Whelan was named Lewis Countian of the Year in 1993.

He and his wife, Kathy, have been married for 31 years.

“George Whelan brings skill, experience and an impressive record of community service to RCBI,” Ms. Weber said. “He plays an important role in helping RCBI achieve its goals of support of manufacturing and manufacturers across West Virginia. We’re fortunate to have him as a member of our team.”
A large turnout of companies showcasing a variety of machining and technology materials descended on the Robert C. Byrd Institute Charleston Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center in mid-July for what was described as the largest expo in the history of that facility.

Forty vendors displayed their products, promoted their services and exhibited their wares during the six-hour event. RCBI’s experienced staff members provided demonstrations throughout the day of the latest state-of-the-industry software and equipment, including examples of reverse engineering technologies.

Eddie Webb, the site manager at the RCBI Charleston facility and the event’s coordinator, was pleased with the turnout of not only vendors but prospective clients as well.

“This has been a success,” Webb noted as the expo began to wind down. “A lot of vendors as well as clients from industry showed up. Everybody is getting to see new technology. This is the most vendors we have ever had.”

Webb noted that the vendors were able to demonstrate their products “in front of many, many clients.”

RCBI Director and CEO Charlotte Weber described the expo as a “spectacular showcase of advanced technology. This was truly representative of an outstanding advanced manufacturing technology center.

“It was a dynamite success,” Ms. Weber concluded.

Kanawha Electric & Machine Co. of Charleston, a leading provider of electrical and mechanical rotating apparatus, service and repair for electric motors, generators and power transmission products, has achieved ISO 9001: 2008 certification. The accomplishment was announced by the company’s vice president for operations, Larry Ward. He credited the Quality Management group at RCBI with making the achievement possible.

Kanawha Electric & Machine Co. earned the ISO 9001: 2008 certification after an intense process and an independent audit by ABS Quality Evaluations, Inc.

“Obviously, we’re proud of this accomplishment,” Ward said. “It certainly didn’t come easily. The people at RCBI provided enormous assistance and we’re grateful to them.”

“We’re very pleased to have been able to work with Kanawha Electric & Machine Co. on a number of projects, including its ISO 9001 objective,” RCBI Director and Chief Executive Officer Charlotte Weber said. “Attaining the highly coveted ISO 9001 registration is a major accomplishment, making Kanawha Electric one of very few ISO 9001-registered machine repair shops in West Virginia. They’ve done a great job.”

ISO 9001 refers to a set of quality management standards established by the International Organization for Standardization. Achieving ISO 9001 certification means a company has implemented steps to meet customers’ quality requirements and satisfy applicable regulatory requirements while aiming to enhance customer satisfaction and achieve continual improvement of its performance in pursuit of these objectives, according to RCBI Director of Quality Services Erica Cheetham.

In addition, the company has become one of just 25 SKF Certified Electric Motor Rebuilders in the United States. “This effort also required a stringent, two-stage audit as SKF plans to certify only about 50 shops nationwide,” Ms. Cheetham noted. SKF is a leading global supplier of products and services for machine shops.

Working with Ms. Cheetham in the Kanawha Electric effort was Eddie Fisher, quality systems and technical trainer. RCBI’s role in the overall process included providing training for the staff, assisting with all documentation, training internal auditors and conducting a pre-assessment.

Quality management systems are increasingly important as more large companies require their sub-tier suppliers to register their quality management systems to recognized international or industry-specific standards, Ms. Weber said. Other companies insist their suppliers be compliant with, if not registered to, these rigorous standards.

RCBI regularly assists manufacturers with development and implementation of documented quality systems. The goal is to ensure that organizations maximize their effectiveness as suppliers in the global marketplace, leading to increased contracting opportunities.
Huntington machinist program graduates recognized


Rocket Center awards six certificates

Six individuals graduated Aug. 11 from the Machinist Technology Program conducted in Rocket Center, W.Va., by RCBI. Pictured, from left, seated, are William Castillo of Ridgeley, W.Va.; Keith Beckman of Oakland, Md.; Matthew Miller of Markleton, Pa., and Michael Keister of Lonaconing, Md. Standing, from left, are Don Norris, machinist instructor; Kerry S. O’Dell, provost at Potomac State College of West Virginia University; Bret DeWitt of Swanton, W.Va.; A.J. Reeves of Keyser, W.Va.; Bernie Wilson and Charlie Crayton, machinist instructors. Each of the graduates also earned machining credentials from the National Institute for Metalworking Skills. The RCBI Rocket Center graduates are in the process of completing Associate in Machinist Technology degrees through Potomac State College of West Virginia University.

RCBI programs receive significant endorsement

Lucinda Curry, Rick Martin, Barry Morlachetta and Larry Cartmill represented RCBI at the West Virginia State Vocational Conference in Charleston July 30. Martin and Cartmill made a presentation regarding RCBI training programs and answered questions from a group of 50 vocational directors, principals and instructors from around the state. Their talks centered on the Machinist Technology Program.

Among those attending was Assistant Superintendent of Schools for the state, Dr. Stan Hopkins, who addressed a number of questions and comments toward the RCBI speakers. He told the audience in closing that RCBI is the best post-secondary opportunity for their students and more of them need to be encouraged to explore this option for their future education.

His endorsement was of particular significance since he oversees all the state’s high school vocational programs.

Bridgeport program graduates two

Two individuals graduated Aug. 12 from the Machinist Technology Program conducted in Bridgeport by RCBI. Pictured, from left, are Brandon Dillon of Mannington and Dillon Hashman of Normantown. The graduates also earned credentials from the National Institute for Metalworking Skills. A new group of students began classes in the hands-on program on August 24.
Ashley Jackson joins RCBI training staff

RCBI added Ashley T. Jackson to its staff at the Huntington Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center in June as a technical trainer. Announcement of his appointment was made by RCBI Director and CEO Charlotte Weber.


“Ashley Jackson is not a stranger to RCBI,” Ms. Weber said. “When he was employed at Mullins Brothers he spent a great deal of time at RCBI as that company took advantage of the opportunity to lease use of our advanced manufacturing equipment. Later, he introduced the Pilgrim Glass Corp. management to the resources RCBI has available and they made very effective use of that equipment. He’s a great addition to our training staff.”

Jackson and his wife, Traci, live at Prichard with their daughters, Shelby and Carley. His interests include golf, fishing and horticulture.

MACHINIST INSTRUCTOR JOINS RCBI PROGRAM AT ROCKET CENTER SITE

Veteran machinist Donald A. Norris has joined the RCBI staff, Director and CEO Charlotte Weber announced in July.

Norris has been assigned to the RCBI Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center at Rocket Center, near Keyser, as a machinist instructor in the Machinist Technology Program. He succeeds John W. Grimm who died unexpectedly in May, Ms. Weber said.

“We were stunned and saddened by the sudden loss of John Grimm,” Ms. Weber said. “We are gratified, however, that we have been able to recruit Don Norris, a machinist of similar extensive experience, to sustain the momentum John brought to our nationally certified Machinist Technology Program at Rocket Center.”

A graduate of Allegany High School in Cumberland, Md., Norris served 35 years as a machinist in the automobile industry, including more than 20 years with computer-numerical-controlled equipment. He also spent four years as an aircraft mechanic in the U.S. Air Force. Prior to joining RCBI he worked with Continental Corporation, formerly Siemens Automotive, in Newport News, Va.

An avid cyclist, he coached indoor cycling at the YMCA for three years and is actively involved with iRacing.com motorsport simulations.

Norris and his wife, Diana, live in Cresaptown, Md. They are the parents of one son, Joshua.

RCBI at Oil & Natural Gas Association meeting

Jennifer Fox and John Casey of Fox Engineering are shown visiting the RCBI display on Sept. 30 during the opening day of the West Virginia Oil & Natural Gas Association’s 94th annual meeting at the Stonewall Resort in Lewis County, W.Va. Manufacturing Sales Representative Barry Morlachetta represented RCBI at the event to discuss RCBI’s statewide service offerings. Association President Dave Spigelmyer called 2009 a “year of extraordinary challenges” but one that is filled with promise and hope for the industry.

RCBI enrolls record number in machinist classes

RCBI has expanded its Machinist Technology Program, enrolling a record number of students in the 2009-2010 classes, according to Director and CEO Charlotte Weber.

With classes now being conducted at four locations, total enrollment has risen to 41, a 16 percent increase over last year’s figure.

The 2009-2010 group ranges in age from 18 to 40-plus years, including several displaced workers who are retraining and two women. For the first time, Machinist Technology Program classes are being taught in Wheeling in partnership with West Virginia Northern Community College (WVNCC) and Wheeling Park High School.

“The cooperation we’ve received from WVNCC officials and those at Wheeling Park has been outstanding as we proceed jointly to broaden the range of workforce programs available in West Virginia’s Northern Panhandle and the immediate region,” Ms. Weber observed.

The program also is being conducted at RCBI Advanced Manufacturing Technology Centers in Huntington, Bridgeport and Rocket Center. continued on pg 7
RCBI joins others in welcoming international executives

West Virginia’s aerospace capabilities were showcased Friday, Oct. 16, as business executives from Japan, Italy and Portugal visited Bridgeport. RCBI, which operates an Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center and a Composites Technology & Training Center at Bridgeport, was among the major participants in the event.

The 16 international business leaders, representing 13 companies, were welcomed to the Robert C. Byrd National Aerospace Education Center by Gov. Joe Manchin, along with state and local officials.

The Development Office can bring together agencies to streamline the process of doing business in West Virginia, Manchin said. State Secretary of Commerce Kelley Goes added that West Virginia has the ability to provide the workforce and environment for companies to thrive.

“When it comes time to make a decision, talk to our business owners, those who are expanding,” the governor said. “The question you will ask is, ‘Can you sustain and grow here?’ We have the skilled workforce to make it happen.”

Greg Walker, Information Systems Specialist, outlined RCBI’s role for the visitors. Others participating included representatives from Mid-Atlantic Aerospace Complex, Aurora Flight Sciences, Bombardier, FMW Composites and Lockheed Martin.

Touring the airport was an important element of the visit, Mid-Atlantic Aerospace Complex President Tracy Miller said. “We want to show them we have 48 acres ready for location there with runway accessibility,” she noted.

Aurora Flight Sciences Program Manager Michael McAllister said it was a way for him to showcase local facility capabilities. “I think we can help them out,” he said.

The international visitors said they were very impressed with what they had seen.

“Everyone is very friendly and hospitable,” Forgital USA Senior Vice President V.R. Ishwar said. “They are knowledgeable and forthright.” His business, which is headquartered in Italy with several plants in Italy and France, specializes in components for jet engines and the space program.

“We have been selected by Rolls Royce as a partner for engines for the new Airbus XWB,” Ishwar said. “Our objective is expanding our horizons and setting up in the U.S. Perhaps West Virginia will be an opportunity.”

Ricardo Patricio, chief technical officer for Activespace Technologies in Portugal, said the area seems very much oriented toward aerospace. Activespace focuses on mechanical and electrical engines from a product development standpoint.

“They seem to have the human resources, schools, universities and a lot of our type of businesses — synergy,” Patricio said. “I’m seeing a strong commitment from government officials and the most attractive technology.”

RCBI, SLIC on display in Fairmont

Director of Business and Project Development Tom Minnich and Technical Trainer Ashley Jackson represented RCBI at the 20th annual Teaming to Win Conference Oct. 14-15 at Fairmont’s Interstate-79 Research Center. Jackson demonstrated RCBI advanced technology capabilities, including reverse engineering and FAROArm.

Teaming to Win’s purpose is to advance and improve small business prospects in West Virginia and to facilitate educational opportunities which promote higher business standards, methods and practices.

On display at the I-79 Research Center was the Super-Lightweight Interchangeable Carrier – SLIC – manufactured by FMW Composite Systems, Inc., of Bridgeport. FMW and NASA worked closely with the RCBI Composites Technology & Training Center in developing SLIC, employing its testing equipment, training facilities, laser measuring systems, lathes, mills and other sophisticated equipment, as well as tapping RCBI’s staff expertise. The cargo carrier, 2,000 pounds lighter than previous carriers, was a key factor in NASA’s last mission to upgrade the Hubble Telescope. The carrier’s next destination is the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.

NASA Deputy Administrator Lori Beth Garver was keynote speaker for the conference. Also speaking was Astronaut John M. Grunsfeld, a key figure in the Hubble mission last May aboard Space Shuttle Atlantis. He performed three of the mission’s five spacewalks to improve and extend the fabled space telescope’s life.
**record number in machinist classes continued...**

At the same time, Ms. Weber reported increased part-time enrollments and first-time, full-time enrollments in advanced CNC (computer-numerical-control) machining courses in several locations. Participants in these programs will earn their national CNC certifications from the National Institute for Metalworking Skills and are eligible for academic credit from Marshall Community & Technical College (MCTC).

The RCBI Machinist Technology Program was the first in the nation to couple certification by the National Institute for Metalworking Skills with a two-year college degree option, now available through Marshall Community & Technical College, Potomac State College of West Virginia University and West Virginia Northern Community College. RCBI also is again the first in West Virginia to couple CNC certification by the National Institute for Metalworking Skills with the opportunity to earn academic credit.

Ms. Weber credited “outstanding work” by the RCBI staff for this year’s growth in the Machinist Technology Program. “Everyone is working tirelessly on behalf of every participant to ensure that Senator Byrd’s vision of RCBI as ‘a teaching factory for the future’ is maintained,” she said. “The American workforce is headed in ways that could not be imagined just a decade ago and West Virginia is fortunate to have a technological treasure headed in ways that could not be imagined just a decade ago and West Virginia is fortunate to have a technological treasure national CNC certifications from the National Institute for Metalworking Skills with the opportunity to earn academic credit.

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**Charleston Expo continued...**

Clients and visitors traveled through a maze of displays and exhibits erected throughout the facility.

For Matt McClure, production manager for Walhonde Tools, Inc. of South Charleston, W.Va., the expo represented an opportunity for him “to view new tooling and manufacturing processes and see what I can take home with me. There are some high-speed milling processes that I am interested in.”

A long-time client of RCBI, McClure said, “This is a great facility. RCBI has helped us develop the company to a great extent. We use just about every machine [at RCBI]. We are well satisfied.”

Don Lucas, representing CBS Industrial Supplies of Princeton, W.Va., said he, too, was impressed with the Expo. “This is just cutting edge,” Lucas assessed. “They have done a very good job with the inspection equipment they have brought in. What they do for manufacturers is really needed.”

The Charleston Expo was another in a continuing series of efforts by RCBI to provide local access to state-of-the-art and state-of-the-market production equipment, technologies, software and hands-on training to manufacturers so they can successfully compete in the global market.

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**Lean seminar Nov. 19 continued...**

She added, “Today’s companies must address a number of major business issues, from market globalization to the recent economic challenges, in order to succeed. They must find ways to cut costs without impacting quality, customer service or product availability. Lean initiatives focus on eliminating waste from plant floor operations — and administrative functions — by simplifying, standardizing and continually improving processes.”

“Lockheed Martin is pleased to host the upcoming Lean Manufacturing Seminar at our Clarksburg facility,” Savage said. “Over the years I have seen first hand the benefits of improved quality and customer value through the implementation and use of lean and 6S principles. It has become a business imperative to incorporate ‘lean’ into our manufacturing processes if we are to survive in today’s global marketplace. I am excited for the opportunity to share our ‘lean’ story with others during this event.”

The Lockheed Martin Clarksburg plant produces major assemblies for the C-130 tactical airlifter and the F-35 fighter jet. The Clarksburg plant is responsible for building approximately 17 percent of each C-130.

“During the seminar, students will be involved in a live simulation that takes participants from traditional batch and que scheduling to lean flow based on pull,” Ms. Cheetham said.

**Deadline for registration is Nov. 16 at a cost of $99 per person. Lunch will be provided for the event, which will run from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Ms. Cheetham said enrollment for the seminar will be limited and suggested interested companies or individuals register as early as possible. To register, call RCBI at 800.469.7224.**

Ms. Cheetham has more than 15 years of experience in working with manufacturers, including the position of QS-9000 coordinator for a Tier II automotive supplier. She completed several courses with the Lean Enterprise Institute as well as Harris Lean Systems, earning a certificate in Level Scheduling. She received both B.A. and M.S. degrees from Marshall University.

The RCBI Quality Certification group helps manufacturers develop and implement documented quality systems to help ensure that they remain effective, sought-after suppliers. To this end, RCBI offers a strong schedule of specialized, quality-focused courses in the latest applications and techniques and regularly helps companies develop work instructions and supervisory management skills.

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Hashman named to Bridgeport post

Dillon L. Hashman of Normantown, Gilmer County, W.Va., has been added to the RCBI staff, RCBI Director and CEO Charlotte Weber announced in August. He has been assigned to the Bridgeport Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center as a CNC technician.

A 2008 graduate of Gilmer County High School, he recently completed RCBI’s Machinist Technology Program, earning National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) credentials. He also served as an intern at RCBI Bridgeport. His previous experience includes work at Fairmont (W.Va.) Tool, Bi-Con Services in Derwent, Ohio and Flying W. Plastics in Glenville, W.Va.

“Dillon proved to be an outstanding student in the Machinist Technology Program,” Ms. Weber said. “We believe his enthusiasm and ‘can do’ attitude will be a strong asset to our Bridgeport operations.”

Hashman said his interests also include motorcycles and hunting.