STEP UP FOR WOMEN

Women embark upon journey to new careers in manufacturing

The first Step Up for Women class began June 6 at RCBI Huntington. Step Up for Women is a 10-week pre-apprenticeship training program designed to prepare women for entry-level positions and apprenticeships in advanced manufacturing. At RCBI, the women will learn how to operate CNC machines as well as blueprint reading and measurement skills. They also will explore leading-edge manufacturing technologies such as 3D Printing and robotics.

The training is being offered by West Virginia Women Work as part of Apprenticeship Works, the National Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeship Program at RCBI. For more information about Step Up for Women, contact Melinda Perron at melinda@wvwomenwork.org.

SBIR program provides funding to commercialize innovations
Entrepreneurs and small business owners who want to advance an innovative concept through the commercialization process can explore federal funding opportunities when the SBIR Road Tour rolls into Morgantown July 19.

Through the federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grant programs, innovators across the country (and right here in West Virginia) are accessing millions of federal dollars, resulting in important research that can be converted into new products, technologies and services while also creating jobs.

SBIR and STTR grants allow businesses to conduct feasibility studies in Phase I (up to $150,000) and develop a prototype in Phase II (up to $1 million) for eventual commercialization in Phase III using non-federal dollars.

Representatives from several federal agencies will be on hand in Morgantown to talk with state residents about how their ideas might fit into federal research needs and be eligible for funding. Successful SBIR recipients will offer advice and explain to prospective applicants how to navigate the SBIR/STTR system.

Register today!

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**RCBI makerspace provides community with resources to create**

The maker movement continues to make an impact in Huntington with the opening of RCBI's Maker Vault. The Maker Vault, located in our building's old bank vault at RCBI's Fourth Avenue office, provides the community access to high-end consumer equipment to encourage entrepreneurship and creating. Members will pay a monthly fee for access to tools that include an X-Carve tabletop CNC router, 3D printers, a vacuum form mold, vinyl cutter and more.

At the Maker Vault opening event on May 13, Huntington Mayor Steve Williams noted that the vault, when it was used as an actual bank vault, contained wealth and now it has something even more valuable - the potential to create. His statements emphasize RCBI's overall goal of getting the community involved in making, knowing that these skills are valuable for both the individuals and the community. The results of being a successful maker could be a new business or the simple satisfaction of learning how to make something -- either would be considered an empowering success!

The Maker Vault also is available as a meeting location for groups with interests in activities such as woodworking, computer programing, Arduinos, or whatever the local making community decides. If you are interested in learning more about the Maker Vault or in starting an interest group, contact us by sending an email to mfg@rcbi.org.
Monroe County entrepreneur turns to RCBI for technical expertise

Like many successful entrepreneurs, Matt Mann sees opportunity in unexpected places. While accompanying a friend to purchase fabricated stone for his house, Mann had an innovative idea. By taking advantage of technology and expertise at RCBI through its Innovate WV early stage funding initiative, the Monroe County resident has created an inventive, easy-to-install product that is now available coast to coast.

"When I saw what the stone manufacturer was doing, I had an idea that involved technology," Mann said. "I know that sounds odd when you're talking about building rock. That's when I came up with the thought process for MSI: Mortarless Stone Innovations. Then the chase was on to build a new product."

Mann, already successful as the owner of a graphic design and printing business, founded a new company in 2003 called M-Rock Stone Manufacturing that creates fabricated stone that's easier to install, involves less mess and can be applied in all weather conditions because it eliminates the need for mortar, using screws instead. Today, from its headquarters near Peterstown in Monroe County, the growing company sells several types of fabricated stone nationwide to clients of all sizes.

Read More

Python camp introduces students to world of computer coding
The Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) is presenting a three-day camp for teenagers interested in learning computer coding. Join us July 6 - 8 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. daily as we introduce middle school and high school campers to Python, a popular and versatile language.

Campers will use Python to create games and solve puzzles under the guidance of expert Bill Gardner, assistant professor in the Digital Forensics and Information Assurance Program at Marshall University. The cost is $60 for each camper and includes a copy of *Python for Kids: A Playful Introduction to Programming*.

Space is limited, so we encourage you to register early to reserve a seat. Call 800.469.7224 for more information or to register.

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RCBI celebrates 2016 class of CNC machinist, welding graduates

The Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) recognized 36 students who completed the Machinist Technology/CNC Program and the Welding Technology Program at RCBI in May. RCBI's nationally certified programs offer rigorous, hands-on instruction that prepares individuals for immediate employment and lifelong professional advancement. In completing the programs, students earn industry-recognized certifications, an RCBI certificate and work toward an associate's degree from Mountwest Community & Technical College. “Skilled machinists and welders will set themselves apart in the workplace,” said Charlotte Weber, RCBI's Director & CEO. “RCBI is proud to prepare a quality workforce of individuals who've earned industry-recognized certifications and who will enhance our region's manufacturers so industry can thrive and grow, improving our economy.”
Mountwest Community & Technical College, Charlie McCorkhill, Quentin Strawderman, Travis Hoy, Greg Mayfield, Tony Maxson, Aaron Walls, Steven Mendez, Isaiah Summerfield, Jesse Williams of RCBI. Seated, from left: Colby Sidenstricker, Sonny Bunnell of RCBI, Rachel Valdivia and Colyn Hammond. Mike Roy was not in attendance.

RCBI Huntington honored its Machinist/CNC and Welding graduates on May 13. From left to right are Dave Lieving, president and CEO of the Huntington Area Development Council; Rick Smoot of RCBI; Dan Pancake of RCBI; Estel Scarberry; David Powell; Christopher Burgess; Dr. Steven Brown, dean of the Career and Technical Division at Mountwest Community and Technical College; Clifford Yeager; Mark Russell; James Reid; Joshua Whitley; Michael Gibson; Adam Hayden; Brandon Baker; Tyler Varney; Lindsey Maynard; Billy Booth; and Greg May.

THE VIDEO FILE

**Building One Business at a Time!**

Watch WCHS-TV's report on how RCBI helps businesses and entrepreneurs innovate.

**Maker Vault's X-Carve Router in Action**

Check out one of the tools available to the public in RCBI's new makerspace.
Manufacturer Utilizes Large-Scale Router

Cabell County innovation company creates helicopter on RCBI Bridgeport's Norwood 5-Axis CNC Router.

Information Security in the Digital Age

Marshall professor and cybersecurity expert Bill Gardner offers tips on how to keep your information out of the hands of thieves and online criminals.

Early Stage Funding Success Story

Learn how RCBI helped one entrepreneur take her business to the next level. See the video from Armstrong Cable.

Upcoming events

June 2016
June 20-24 - 3D Printing Camp, RCBI Huntington, 9 am - 2 pm daily
June 27-30 - LEGO Robotics Summer Camp, RCBI Huntington, 9 am - 4 pm daily

July 2016
July 11-13 - 3D Printing Camp, RCBI South Charleston, 9 am - 2 pm daily
July 19 - SBIR Road Tour, WVU Media Innovation Center, Morgantown, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
July 19-21 - W.Va. Statewide Technology Conference, Waterfront Hotel, Morgantown
July 20-21 - LEGO Robotics Boot Camp, RCBI Huntington, 10 am - 5 pm daily
July 25-29 - 3D Printing Camp, RCBI Bridgeport, 9 am - 2 pm daily

Call 800.469.7224 or email frontdesk@rcbi.org for more information.

ABOUT US

The Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) provides leading-edge equipment, specialized training and staff expertise so entrepreneurs and manufacturers of all sizes can innovate, create jobs and thrive. Learn more at www.rcbi.org.

800.469.7224