HUNTINGTON, W.Va. – Duane Edward Webb of Salt Rock, W.Va. has been named January Employee of the Month at the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI). Announcement of his selection was made by RCBI Director and CEO Charlotte Weber. Webb, senior manufacturing engineer and site manager, is stationed at RCBI’s South Charleston Manufacturing Technology Center. He has been an RCBI employee since September, 1998. Prior to that he served as production manager at Mountaineer Archery from 1989 to 1998. A 1988 graduate of Guyan Valley High School, Webb studied drafting and Auto-CAD for three years at the Charles E. Yeager Career Center in Hamlin. He went on to earn his Associate in Applied Science degree in Machinist Technology at Marshall Community & Technical College and is on track to receive his Bachelor of Arts degree from West Virginia University Institute of Technology this May. He has received advanced technical training through a number of industry programs and seminars. “Eddie Webb does an outstanding job for RCBI clients and students alike,” Ms. Weber said. “Every day he brings to his work not only knowledge and talent but a sense of dedication that is to be envied. His consistent, quality performance readily merits his designation as Employee of the Month.” Married and the father of two, Webb is an avid outdoorsman. He coached T-Ball for two years and Little League baseball for one year. As an archer he competed nationally for five years. He competes in local bass fishing tournaments and has been a deer hunter for more than 20 years. He serves as an assistant Sunday school teacher and as a Vacation Bible School teacher at Glory Way Baptist Church in Salt Rock.

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. – Everett E. “Ed” Black of Proctorville, Ohio, has been selected as Employee of the Month for February at the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI), Director & CEO Charlotte Weber announced. “Ed Black does an outstanding job as the senior instructor in our Machinist Technology Program, training tomorrow’s high-tech machinists,” Ms. Weber said. “His extensive experience, outgoing personality and willingness to ‘go the extra mile’ make him an extremely valuable member of RCBI’s staff.” A 1962 graduate of Huntington East High School, Black worked from 1965 to 1997 at Huntington’s Inco Alloys International, Inc. where he rose to become leadman machinist. From 1985 to 1988 he was an evening instructor of machining skills at Cabell County Vocational Technical Center and in 1997-98 returned to the renamed facility as instructor of machine trades at Cabell County Vocational Technical Center. He began his career at RCBI in 1998. Black earned an Associate in Applied Science degree from Marshall Community & Technical College in 2002 and his Bachelor’s degree from Marshall University in 2003. He also has completed specialized training through the Inco International Machinist Training Program, McCorkle Machine & Engineering, Inc. CNC training course, Metcut Research Associates, Inc. practical machining principles for shop application program, and in vocational education at West Virginia Institute of Technology. He has earned the maximum seven metalworking skills certifications awarded by the National Institute for Metalworking Skills. Black and his wife of 44 years, Karen, are parents of two grown children, Mark and Rebecca. His interests include church, golf and home improvement projects.
New Equipment Delivered

Five new pieces of high-tech equipment were delivered to RCBI in mid-February, Director of Engineering Rick Martin reported. The machinery, from Haas Automation, Inc. of Oxnard, California, consists of two VF-2 vertical milling machines, two TM-2 toolroom mills and one TL-3 toolroom lathe.

Martin said the TM-2s and one of the VF-2s will be used in the expanded Machinist Technology Program curriculum.

RCBI Bridgeport assists with large, unusual task

“It’s not the biggest job we’ve ever assisted with but it is one of the most unusual,” remarked Paul Beatty, senior manufacturing engineer and site manager at RCBI Bridgeport. Work began in early February utilizing the six axis machining center to repair numerous scoop buckets that are used to dredge rivers and lakes. Each bucket weighed more than a ton and measured 4 feet, 8 inches wide and stood 3 feet, 10 inches high. Beatty said when work on the bottom of hardened metal cast was completed, Shuck Steel Fabricating of Fairmont had re-machined the pads on each bucket “back to the blueprint spec.” “RCBI was very pleased that we had the technology in place that was needed to complete this job and look forward to working with Shuck Steel Fabricating of Fairmont in the future,” commented Beatty.

Job shadowing at RCBI Bridgeport facility

RCBI Technical Program Recruiter Larry Cartmill, right, talks with job shadowing student Rusty Hayes during a tour of the Bridgeport facility. Hayes, a ninth grade student North Marion High School, said he was impressed with the RCBI site and “I liked watching the machines operating.” Hayes is one of the numerous students who have participated in the yearly program under the direction of the Marion County Board of Education. Hayes met with Cartmill, Machinist Instructor Bernie Wilson and Composites Program Manager Mike Gray during his four-hour visit.

A Closer Look

Here is a closer look at a member of the RCBI family

NAME: Xiaoping Wang
ADDRESS: Proctorville, Ohio
AGE: 54
MARITAL STATUS: Wife, Mei Li Wang, 28 years
CHILDREN: Scott Wang, 27 and Nathan Wang, 14
HOBBIES: Skiing
SCHOOLING: B.S., Electrical Engineering, in China. M.S., Electrical Engineering, from WVU
LENGTH OF SERVICE AT RCBI: 16 years
JOB TITLE: Systems Administrator
HOMETOWN: Fuxin, China
FIRST JOB: Electrician, 1970, in China
FIRST CAR: Mazda 323
FAVORITE SPORT: Basketball
LEAST FAVORITE SPORT: Boxing
SOMETHING THAT’S ALWAYS IN MY REFRIGERATOR: Beer
FAVORITE MEAL: Chinese hot pot
FAVORITE RESTAURANT: Like good Chinese food but could not find a good Chinese restaurant around here
I WILL NOT EAT: Raw fish
MOST PRODUCTIVE TIME OF DAY: 8 p.m. to midnight
FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: Beaches
BEDTIME: Midnight
IF I WON THE LOTTERY, I WOULD: Travel around the world
Ryan Neale represents one of many success stories generated by the Machinist Technology Program provided by RCBI in cooperation with the community and technical college. It serves students in statewide RCBI technology centers.

While learning to be machinists, a field offering an extensive range of employment opportunities, the students are exposed to the most advanced, most sophisticated high technology manufacturing equipment available. For example, the RCBI Bridgeport location boasts a five-axis CNC router. The 28,000-pound unit is one of only a handful located in West Virginia and the only one available for training purposes and leased-time use by the state’s small- and medium-sized manufacturers, few of whom could afford to buy their own.

RCBI operates Manufacturing Technology Centers in Huntington, South Charleston, Bridgeport and Rocket Center in West Virginia’s Eastern Panhandle. Each site is equipped with impressive arrays of high-tech machinery for use in assisting the state’s manufacturing firms. At the same time, RCBI offers many training opportunities in support of those manufacturers in addition to the Machinist Technology Program.

One such event took place Feb. 28 when RCBI was host to a Sandvik Coromant program with Sterling Supply Co., “How to Master the Art of Milling.” And in late January we worked with EDM Sales of Virginia, Inc. and Erowa Technologies for programs on the latest in high-tech equipment.

Like Ryan Neale, those attending such events have an opportunity to see some of the unlimited possibilities high-tech manufacturing offers our country.

Charlotte Weber is Director and CEO of the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing.

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“Leadership West Virginia has shown itself to be an enormous force in helping forge a better West Virginia,” says Charlotte Weber, Director and CEO at RCBI and a 1995 Leadership West Virginia graduate. “The program is a thought provoking experience for its participants, offering them an unprecedented opportunity to explore West Virginia’s resources, needs and opportunities.”

Supported by tuition and contributions, both private and corporate, the program aims to identify emerging leaders and enhance their knowledge of not only the challenges facing the state, but also of the state’s broad diversity and its varied attributes. The annual educational program involves class members assembling for two days each month over an eight-month period. At each session, the class members will hear from a wide range of business people, educators and others. Each visit is hosted by a local sponsor or sponsors and carries a specific theme.

RCBI and Chesapeake Energy Host Members of Leadership West Virginia

Members of the 2008 Class of Leadership West Virginia were to meet for their first session of the year March 13 and 14 in Huntington. During their visit, the class members were to hear from an array of speakers and visit the Allevard Springs plant at nearby Prichard in Wayne County for a firsthand look at modern manufacturing.

“Manufacturing and Energy” were the twin subjects for the two-day session, co-sponsored by the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing and Chesapeake Energy. RCBI and Chesapeake also are co-partners in sponsoring, not just the Huntington visit, but the entire year-long program for the 49 men and women participating.

Leadership West Virginia is a non-profit, statewide leadership development and education program affiliated with the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

This is RCBI’s second year to be a title partner for the program.

By Charlotte Weber

A graduate of the Machinist Technology Program offered by the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) and Marshall Community and Technical College (MCTC) recently wrote to former Marshall University President Robert B. Hayes, “During the past three months I have been machining and installing parts for the Space Shuttles and the launch pads of Kennedy Space Center.”

Ryan Neale, a 1998 graduate of Cabell Midland High School, told Dr. Hayes he was working as an aerospace technician with United Space Alliance, a major contractor for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

“I remember well the day you gave me a tour and introduced me to the Robert C. Byrd Institute,” Neale wrote. He said he joined the Navy after graduation and served two tours of duty in the Persian Gulf as an aviation structural mechanic, completing his service last May. Then came an opportunity to contribute to the nation’s space program.

“I am beginning to understand that the experiences God had given me were shaping me for my new career,” Neale added. “Every day presents a new challenge. I see and feel the power that it takes to send a three billion dollar spacecraft into orbit and how complicated the machinery is to get seven astronauts into space. When you consider the number of systems that have to function perfectly, each successful launch is a miracle.

“Thanks to you, the Robert C. Byrd Institute and Marshall University, I am part of that launch team. I feel like I am in the middle of this journey, I can see the past and the future has unlimited possibilities. Thank you.”

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The Huntington sessions were to be conducted at the Pullman Plaza Hotel and RCBI’s Huntington Manufacturing Technology Center. Speakers were to include Scott Rotruck, Director of Corporate Development with Chesapeake Energy; State Senator Robert Plymale, who was to moderate a panel on education and workforce development issues, and Steve Roberts, President of the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

Participants also were to hear about the city’s history from founder Collis P. Huntington, as portrayed by James E. Castro, Associate Director for Public Information at RCBI.

“This is the 18th year for Leadership West Virginia,” reports Executive Director Pam Ferris. “To date, the program has graduated more than 700 participants from virtually all walks of life.”

In addition to Huntington, the members of this year’s class will meet in Parkersburg, Fayetteville, Wheeling, White Sulphur Springs and Charleston, and twice in Morgantown.

High tech training opens door to unlimited opportunities

By Charlotte Weber

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RCBI to Honor NAM’s Hank Cox

The Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) has named Hank Cox, vice president of media relations with the National Association of Manufacturers, as the recipient of its 2008 Distinguished Alumnus in Manufacturing Award.

In conjunction with Marshall University and the Marshall University Alumni Association, RCBI presents the award to recognize particular individuals who have made outstanding achievements in and contributions to the manufacturing sector.

“Hank is responsible for translating the NAM’s viewpoint on complex manufacturing issues into clear language and conveying the information to the news media, the association’s members and the general public,” RCBI Director and CEO Charlotte Weber said in announcing the award. “He is an outspoken advocate for manufacturing and a recognized expert on the complex forces affecting the manufacturing environment.”

RCBI will present the award to Cox at the annual Marshall University Alumni Association Awards Banquet, slated April 12 in the Don Morris Room at the Marshall Memorial Student Center.

Cox is a graduate of the Class of 1968 at Marshall, where he followed in the footsteps of two older brothers and his mother, the late Meriam Byrum Cox, a teacher of Latin and English at Barboursville High School, who did her graduate work at Marshall. He is married to Cheryl Jaksich Cox of Perth, Australia. They have two daughters, Rachel and Sarah, and live in Takoma Park, Maryland.

John K. Euton joins Byrd Institute staff

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. -- John Kevin Euton of Kitts Hill, Ohio, has joined the staff of the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) in Huntington as a CNC machinist, RCBI Director and CEO Charlotte Weber announced today. He will assist clients leasing time on RCBI’s state-of-the-art manufacturing equipment, help maintain that equipment and train others in its use, Ms. Weber said.

Euton comes to RCBI from Huntington Plating Inc. of Huntington, where he has been employed since 1985, including 11 years as a supervisor. He began his career in 1979 as a machinist at McCorkle Machine & Engineering of Huntington and worked five years as a foreman/machinist at D&E Tool Co., also in Huntington.

He attended Coal Grove (Ohio) High School and Lawrence County (Ohio) Vocational School.

“We’re very pleased to have an individual with John Euton’s extensive experience joining our staff at RCBI’s Huntington Technology Center,” Ms. Weber said. “Since his previous employer has worked with our advanced equipment over the years, John has the advantage of being familiar with RCBI’s high-tech machinery and is prepared to make an immediate contribution.”