Dear Chris,

It's been an exciting spring for everyone involved with the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing. We announced an innovative new program, secured additional grant funding and received some great media coverage from across the state. Please take a minute to see all that's happening at RCBI!

Five INNOVATE WV companies selected
Praise for INNOVATE WV
The Bluefield Daily Telegraph published an editorial praising the partnership that is creating INNOVATE. Check it out!

http://bdtonline.com/editorials/x234176778/Manufacturing-partnership-Innovate-WV-plan-a-plus

Did You Know?

The Economist

The Economist featured a story about how 3D printing-a process available through RCBI-changes the rules of manufacturing. This is another great example of how technology available at RCBI truly is on the cutting edge worldwide. See the full story here:

http://www.economist.com/node/21552892

The Robert C. Byrd Institute, in partnership with Marshall University and Concord University, recently announced the first five INNOVATE WV companies. Those selected will receive assistance in commercializing new products.

HUNTINGTON - Congressman Nick J. Rahall II, Marshall University President Stephen J. Kopp, John Maher, Vice President for Research at Marshall University, and Charlotte Weber, Director and CEO of the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI), announced five small manufacturers have been selected as the state's first INNOVATE West Virginia companies.

INNOVATE WV is a program sponsored by Marshall University, Concord University and RCBI and is designed to help entrepreneurs, small businesses and manufacturers in the southern part of the state develop and commercialize new products. As part of the West Virginia EDA University Center partnership, the initiative is funded in part through the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA).

The five companies selected to receive assistance to support their entrepreneurial efforts and develop novel manufacturing ideas are:

- Blue Gold Inc. of White Sulphur Springs
- Carbon Fiber Composites of Ona
- Stinson-Lane LLC of Williamsburg
- Tramco of Williamson
- Vintec Manufacturing LLC of Gauley Bridge
Upcoming Events

- **Blueprint Reading**
  - June 26, Kent St., Tuscarawas
  - July 10, TechSolve, Dayton
  - July 17, RCBI Huntington

- **Conflict Resolution**
  - July 18, RCBI Bridgeport

- **FARO CAM2 Q**
  - Aug. 1, RCBI Charleston

- **Introduction to Composites**
  - July 25, RCBI Bridgeport

- **Introduction to GD&T**
  - June 12, TechSolve, Dayton

- **Introduction to PLCs**
  - Aug. 1, Online

- **Introduction to Robotics**
  - Aug. 1, Online

- **Introduction to Social Media for Manufacturers**
  - Aug. 1, RCBI Bridgeport

- **Introduction to Additive Manufacturing**
  - July 18, RCBI Charleston

- **Mastercam Advanced**
  - Aug. 21, RCBI Charleston

- **Mastercam Fundamentals**
  - Aug. 7, RCBI Charleston

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Read the full release:
[http://rcbi.org/wmspage.cfm?parm1=625](http://rcbi.org/wmspage.cfm?parm1=625)

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**NASA funds RCBI composites project**

NASA has awarded the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) a grant to help fund a $20,000 Composites Technology Outreach Project. The goal of the project is to increase public awareness, especially among young people, of this important new sector of technology.

"It is difficult to find an industry in the 21st Century that is not touched by composites materials," said Charlotte Weber, RCBI Director & CEO. "Composites technology is particularly booming in the aviation and aerospace industries, where light-weight, high-strength composites are used to reduce weight and improve the efficiency of aircraft and spacecraft."

Composites also are used in automotive bodies and parts, ship and boat building, sporting equipment and safety gear, energy technology and medicine.

Read the full release:
[http://rcbi.org/wmspage.cfm?parm1=626](http://rcbi.org/wmspage.cfm?parm1=626)

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**RCBI part of StartUp WV program**

Six West Virginia small businesses are using the advanced manufacturing tools and technical assistance available at RCBI’s centers to assist in taking their entrepreneurial ideas from concept to prototype.

The six companies are part of the StartUp WV Manufacturing program, which was created earlier this year. StartUp WV Manufacturing is a joint project of the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) and TechConnect WV.

Other entrepreneurs/companies are expected to be added to this program in the near future.

[Click to learn more](http://rcbi.org/wmspage.cfm?parm1=626)

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**RCBI assists students with robotics**
Dozens of West Virginia middle school and high school students are busy designing, building and programming robots to perform complex tasks in team competitions, and mentors and sponsors such as RCBI are assisting them.

In Morgantown, RCBI helped the Mountain Area Robotics (MARS) team with engineering design, CAD modeling and machining components.

Meanwhile, RCBI also has worked with Toyota staffs and other volunteers who assisted the Putnam Area Robotics Team (PART). Both teams performed well in regional competitions this past school year and plan to compete again this coming year. And RCBI staffers will continue to help them.

Welcome to our newest employees

Jerry Jefferson
CHARLESTON -- Jerry Brian Jefferson of Ona, W.Va., has joined the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) as a CNC Machinist and Technical Trainer at the RCBI Charleston Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center.

Prior to joining RCBI, this native of Lesage, W.Va., was co-owner of Innovative Tooling Solutions, LLC, where he designed and manufactured a wide variety of tools, dies, gages and molds for various industries. Jefferson's earlier years of industrial experience includes employment with Co-Ex Plastic Tooling, Inc. and McCorkle Machine and Engineering Inc.

Cathy Burns
HUNTINGTON -- Cathy Burns has joined the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing in workforce development, assigned to the RCBI
Huntington Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center.

RCBI Director & CEO Charlotte Weber said Burns 'will work to enhance RCBI's nationally recognized skills training programs and help develop and implement new recruiting strategies. We are very fortunate to have filled this important staff post with someone of Cathy's caliber and experience.'

RCBI staffer earns Lean Six Sigma 'Black Belt'

HUNTINGTON -- Erica Cheetham, Director of Quality Services at the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI), has successfully completed the Web-Leveraged Lean Six Sigma Black Belt Course at the Fisher College of Business, The Ohio State University.

Six Sigma is a management strategy widely used in industry. Six Sigma uses a set of quality management methods to identify and remove the causes of defects or errors and minimize variability in production. Those highly trained in the strategy are recognized with the "black belt" designation.

"Erica's spirit, drive and dedication to achieving operational excellence is what has made RCBI's Quality Division what it is today," said RCBI Director & CEO Charlotte Weber. "RCBI has an exceptional Quality Management Team that works hand-in-glove with manufacturers introducing more than just quality systems - they bring new ways in which to do business."

Thank you for your time and your support of RCBI. As always, please let us know if there's anything we can do to assist you or your business!

Sincerely,

Charlotte Weber

Director and CEO
What RCBI Does

The Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Manufacturing (RCBI) encourages job creation, economic development, innovation and entrepreneurship by supporting manufacturing companies of all sizes. We offer cutting-edge equipment use and specialized training for everyone from sole proprietors to Fortune 500 companies.

Simply put, our goal is to use our Advanced Manufacturing Technology Centers across West Virginia to provide the resources that individuals and companies need to create, sustain and expand their businesses. In addition to providing leased use of cutting-edge equipment, workforce development programs and customized training, RCBI assists companies in networking and procurement, particularly with federal contracts.

The technologies available at RCBI Advanced Manufacturing Technology Centers in Huntington, Charleston, Bridgeport and Rocket Center are among the best in the world, providing companies in the Mid-Atlantic region services that would not otherwise be readily available to companies them. In particular RCBI offers Additive Manufacturing (AM) through its Design Works labs, and is a national Center of Excellence for composite materials providing support to NASA engineers as well as first-tier DoD suppliers in West Virginia. These activities help ensure that RCBI fulfills its mission of developing a quality, just-in-time supplier base for the Department of Defense (DoD) as well as other agencies and the commercial sector.