Grants Bring Ideas to Life

Registration is underway for assistance to help entrepreneurs, small businesses and manufacturers turn their ideas into commercial opportunities.

Two efforts at RCBI – StartUpWV and InnovateWV – offer technical assistance that includes design and development, rapid prototyping with 3D Printers and other technical assistance through RCBI. Both help individuals and entrepreneurs turn their ideas for new products or processes into reality, generating new jobs across the state.

As 2015 swings into action at the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI), we continue to work with entrepreneurs, innovators and makers, providing access to leading edge technology, staff expertise and specialized training. Our focus on STEM skills and workforce development is underway as well – and we're preparing an exciting agenda of activities that we'll share in upcoming newsletters. Please stay tuned!

We hope you take a few minutes to find out the latest happenings at RCBI. As always, you can keep up with our latest initiatives online at our digital portal, RCBI.org.

RCBI Competition to Recognize Best in Agricultural Innovation

Agricultural innovators across West Virginia will compete for a business assistance package valued in excess of $10,000 as part of a contest sponsored by the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI). The West Virginia Vanguard Agriculture Competition will honor innovation and ingenuity in agriculture, recognizing an entrepreneur whose idea has the greatest potential to solve logistical challenges in the local food supply chain.
Capacity Features Entrepreneurs

The latest issue of Capacity focuses on entrepreneurship, examining the world of opportunity available to fledgling as well as successful entrepreneurs.

Capacity, a publication of the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI), delivers fresh ideas and covers critical issues necessary to strengthen America manufacturing.

Our latest cover story offers an in-depth look at the faces of entrepreneurs across West Virginia - some of whose roots stretch back decades while others display the innovative flair that just may enable them to become tomorrow's legends.

To obtain your copy of Capacity, email capacity@rcbi.org or call 800.469.RCBI (7224).

SUCCESS STORY

Faster, Better, Safer: Service Sets Apart Bridgeport-based EASW

Once tennis partners, Ed Waske and Bob Martino are now business partners whose Bridgeport-based company, Engine & Airframe Solutions Worldwide, provides repair and maintenance services to aircraft companies around the globe.

Martino, a dentist, is chief executive officer of Wilmar Management, a company that manages seven dental offices in West Virginia and five in Tennessee. He is also CEO of EASW and finds similarities in running both businesses.

"It's about customer service," he said. "I think that's where the similarities come in, treating people right, making sure that they have a great experience. That's what we try to do in the dental world, and that's what we try to do in the airline industry world."


Workshops Focus on Start-ups

RCBI and the West
Members of Boy Scout Troop 62 learned about STEM skills, manufacturing and 3D Printing during their recent tour of RCBI Huntington. If your group would like a tour of RCBI, call us at 800.469.RCBI (7224).

Revised Quality Standards
Expected in September

Quality management systems standards used by companies around the globe are undergoing revision. Companies have three years to migrate to ISO 9001:2015, expected to be published by September.

According to ISO (International Organization for Standardization), the revised standards will be easier to use in conjunction with other standards and will have an increased emphasis on risks faced by organizations. With headquarters in Switzerland, ISO is the world's largest developer of voluntary international standards. Standards offer specifications for products, services and systems that facilitate trade among companies in different countries.

The Quality Certification group at the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) has helped more than 300 manufacturers develop and implement documented quality systems. In the coming months, RCBI will offer a series of courses focused on the new ISO standards. For more information, contact Erica Cheetham, RCBI's Director of Quality Services, at echeetham@rcbi.org or 800.469.RCBI (7224).

RCBI Develops 3D Printing Course

Once a technology of the future, 3D Printing is now appearing in classrooms, inspiring students, teachers and makers to explore new ways of thinking and creating. To help prepare educators to use the innovative technology, RCBI has prepared a hands-on course during which teachers will design and fabricate 3-D objects using computer-aided design (CAD) software and 3D Printers. The course will be presented this spring at RCBI in partnership with the June Harless Center at Marshall University. For more information, contact Lucinda Curry at lcurry@rcbi.org or 304.720.7742.
Thanks again for your time and your support of RCBI. As always, don't hesitate to contact us if there's any way we can assist you or your business!

Sincerely,

Charlotte Weber
Charlotte Weber
Director & CEO

What RCBI Does

The Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible 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, Quality Management Implementation, 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 and Bridgeport are among the best in the world, providing companies in the Mid-Atlantic region services that would not otherwise be readily available to them. In particular, RCBI offers Additive Manufacturing (AM) with 3D Printer technology 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.