Pratt & Whitney Hosts Lean Event

On March 26, RCBI will present a Lean Manufacturing course - including a simulation - at Pratt & Whitney Engine Services, Inc. in Bridgeport. Pratt & Whitney will provide a tour showcasing Lean practices that have been implemented within the facility. The course will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost is $229 per person, and lunch will be provided. Contact Erica Cheetham, RCBI’s Director of Quality Services, at echeetham@rcbi.org for more information and to register.

RCBI Honors Ag Innovation

RCBI will recognize innovation in agriculture at this year’s West Virginia Small Farm Conference. In its 11th year, the three-day conference brings

Don’t let the falling mercury and icy conditions fool you. The doors at RCBI are open to manufacturers and makers so they have access to the expertise and technology they need to succeed, despite all the snow and winter havoc.

We sincerely appreciate your interest in what's happening in industry and the role that RCBI plays across our state. As always, for more information you can visit us online.

Resources Available for Manufacturers

Chambers of Commerce in the North-central region are partnering with RCBI to host a panel discussion March 5 from noon to 2 p.m. at RCBI Bridgeport that will respond to and answer industry and entrepreneurs questions.

Chambers of Commerce in Harrison and Marion counties and the Morgantown Area are helping identify companies or entrepreneurs across the region and encourage participation in the discussion.

The panel is being hosted at the RCBI Bridgeport Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center (2400 East Benedum Industrial Drive), located just off Route 50 in the Industrial Park adjacent to NCWV Airport. The event is open to the public, and lunch will be provided.

To RSVP or for more information, phone 800.469.RCBI (7224) or send an e-mail to frontdesk@rcbi.org.
Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin together hundreds of farmers, educators, and others from throughout the state.

On Feb. 27, RCBI will recognize the inaugural winner of the West Virginia Vanguard Agriculture Competition. The contest recognizes an entrepreneur whose idea has the greatest potential to solve logistical challenges in the local food supply chain. The winner will receive a $10,000 prize package that includes product design and other services to help bring the innovative idea to fruition. The competition is supported with funding from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Bill Woodrum, program coordinator of the Agriculture Innovations initiative at RCBI, will make presentations at the conference on several topics, including social media marketing and using manufacturing processes in agriculture.

Inventors Can Tap Free Legal Advice

Inventors who qualify can receive free legal advice about the patent process through the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office’s pro bono program. To qualify, an inventor’s income must fall below a certain level. In addition, the inventor must possess an actual invention - not just an idea - as well as a solid understanding of the patent process. Inventors who qualify

Tomblin Spotlights Advanced Manufacturing

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin highlighted the growth of advanced manufacturing and the contributions by public-private partnerships and technology during the National Governors Association’s Winter meeting in Washington D.C. As chair of Economic Development and Commerce Committee, Tomblin led a discussion about how states can encourage the expansion of advanced manufacturing as part of ongoing economic development efforts.

"New technologies have ushered in a manufacturing renaissance in our country and have encouraged growth in the advanced manufacturing sector," he said. "These technologies provide the latest opportunities to increase economic growth, focus on job creation and foster economic development across the country."

In describing public-private partnerships, Tomblin recognized the work of the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) for providing a variety of resources including 3D Printing, robotics and world-class tooling and training that help businesses succeed in advanced manufacturing.

White Serving as Marshall's Interim President

While Marshall University searches for its next president, Logan businessman Gary G. White is serving as interim president.

The Marshall University Board of Governors named White interim president on Dec. 29,
Deadline Nears for Award

The EY Entrepreneur of the Year award recognizes the most innovative people in business today. Entrepreneurs first compete regionally, then nationally. West Virginia entrepreneurs participate through a regional program that also covers western Pennsylvania. Regional winners are selected in several categories, including manufacturing and energy.

The deadline to apply for the 2015 award is March 6. Entrepreneurs are encouraged to nominate themselves. Others can also suggest entrepreneurs to be contacted about the competition.

Read more

Workshops Focus on Start-ups

RCBI and the West Virginia Small Business Development Center (WVSBDC) are partners in a continuing series of training workshops. Following the death of former president Stephen J. Kopp, A Marshall graduate, White is a former member and a past chairman of the Marshall University Board of Governors. He is executive vice president of Blackhawk Mining LLC, and previously was president and chief executive officer of International Industries Inc.

Since becoming interim president, White has been meeting with Marshall’s faculty, staff, students and others. He has attended receptions on the Huntington campus, on the South Charleston campus and at the Mid-Ohio Valley Center in Point Pleasant. White also met with state lawmakers Feb. 18 during the annual Marshall Day at the Capitol as both houses of the legislature issued resolutions commemorating the day and honoring the late Dr. Kopp.

On Feb. 11, the Marshall University Board of Governors approved a search process for the university’s 37th president. The board hopes to have the new president chosen by the fall semester.

Read more

Third District Accelerator Partners Meet

Partners in the Third District Accelerator gathered Feb. 11 at the West Virginia Capitol to discuss plans for the coming year and meet with legislators from the 3DA region. The Third District Accelerator is a broad-based collaborative effort to create jobs in southern West Virginia. Partners include RCBI, TechConnectWV, Marshall University, Concord University, and the Natural Capital Investment Fund.
The Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) announces the addition of three industry-experienced individuals to its staff.

- Robert Contaldi is a business development specialist. In this role he will identify and develop business opportunities in industrial markets across West Virginia and the region. The New Jersey native lives in Ridgeley, Mineral County, where he also operates Fulmin International Inc., a company that provides manufacturing, engineering and prototyping to the aerospace and defense industries. Contaldi received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from New Jersey Institute of Technology and his MBA from Rockhurst University.

- Dan Pancake is a CNC machinist/technical trainer. Pancake taught for 24 years at Ashland (Ky.) Community and Technical College as an associate professor in the machine tool technology program. Previously, he worked as a machinist at National Mine Service in Ashland. Pancake grew up in Ironton, Ohio, where he lives with his wife Patty. They have two daughters and five grandchildren. Based at the RCBI Huntington Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, Pancake's responsibilities involve meeting the skills needs of workers across West Virginia.

- Chris Shaffer is a design engineer/technical trainer. The Elkview native is a graduate of Herbert Hoover High School. He is a graduate of WVU Tech, where he earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. During college, Shaffer was an intern at Control Point Machining and Fabrication, a custom manufacturer located in Charleston. Although based at the RCBI Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center in South Charleston, Shaffer will work with RCBI centers in Huntington and Bridgeport as well.

Students Win International Robotics Competition
South Charleston High School students, all members of the VADARS robotics team, visited RCBI Bridgeport to learn about 3D Printing and advanced manufacturing. In January, the students won the ZERO Robotics competition. Read more

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 leading-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.