SBIR Road Tour Highlights Funding Opportunities

West Virginia entrepreneurs, inventors, and others are invited to explore funding opportunities provided through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. The SBIR Road Tour visits the Robert H. Mollohan Research Center at 1000 Galliher Drive in Fairmont on May 14.

The SBIR program encourages small businesses to engage in research and development that has the potential for commercialization. Through a competitive awards-based program, SBIR enables small businesses to explore their technological potential and provides the incentive to profit from its commercialization. The STTR program requires the small business to formally collaborate with a research institution.

GROWTH AND INNOVATION FORUM
RSVP TODAY

On Tuesday, April 28, join RCBI and the Harrison, Marion, and Monongalia Chambers of Commerce along with a Distinguished Innovation Panel for a GROWTH AND INNOVATION FORUM. The forum will run from noon to 2 p.m., and offer viable solutions for your manufacturing problems ranging from access to capital, exporting, innovative technologies and processes, and much more.

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.

Attendees also will be offered lunch. RSVP TODAY! Call 800.469.RCBI (7224) or send an e-mail to frontdesk@rcbi.org.
Four West Virginia companies are finalists in the Fourth Annual Shale Gas Innovation Contest. Organized by the Shale Gas Innovation & Commercialization Center, the contest is open to small businesses, researchers, entrepreneurs and innovators who are developing products or services for the shale gas industry.

This year, 14 finalists were chosen and will make presentations at a conference in SouthPointe, Pa., in May. Four of the finalists will receive checks for $25,000.

The West Virginia finalists are:
* 9ThreeSolutions of Morgantown
* FMW Rubber Products of Bridgeport
* Fairmont Brine Processing
* Fiber Innovations Technologies of Fairmont

In 2014, NGInnovations, a Cross Lanes company, was one of the four finalists in the contest, receiving $25,000 for a product that helps companies track shipments of fluid, including wastewater produced at natural gas drilling sites.

West Virginia student machinists competed April 11 in the CNC Technician portion of the state-level SkillsUSA Championships at the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) in Bridgeport.

Experienced machinists from RCBI provided contestants with drawings of a machinable metal part. Students then demonstrated their proficiency in programming Haas CNC (computer-numeric-control) lathes and mills to manufacture the item. The competition also gauged student knowledge of basic machining skills such as precision measurement, manual machining and blueprint reading.

SkillsUSA is nationwide collaboration of students, educators and industry representatives joining to ensure a skilled American workforce. SkillsUSA serves high school and college educators and students preparing for careers in technical, skilled and service occupations.

RCBI has participated in SkillsUSA for more than a decade, and its staff members volunteer their services to state winners to help them better prepare for the national competition.

W.Va. Group Earns Workshop Invitation

After winning a national competition, a team from Reconnecting McDowell will attend a workshop aimed at helping coal-reliant communities develop innovative strategies for strengthening their economies.

The McDowell County group will attend the Innovation Challenge workshop in Pikeville, Ky., from April 22-24. They will receive hands-on training to help them implement
strategies related to economic diversification, workforce training and other issues. Of the eight groups chosen for the first workshop, Reconnecting McDowell is the only one from West Virginia.

RCBI and TechConnect WV assisted Reconnecting McDowell with the application for the competition.

**Registration is on for 3D Camps**

The Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) is accepting registrations for its 3D Printing camps, open to students in 6th through 12th grades.

RCBI's Advanced Manufacturing Technology Centers in Huntington and Bridgeport will host the camps. The Huntington camp is June 22 - 26, and the Bridgeport camp is July 13 - 17, with each running daily from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The $100 cost of each camp includes lunch each day. Because of limited seats, early registration is recommended. For more information, visit [www.rcbi.org/3DPCamp](http://www.rcbi.org/3DPCamp) or call 800.469.RCBI (7224).

**Grant Workshop Set for May 5 in Union**

The Third District Accelerator will offer a free grant-writing workshop 1-3:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 5, at the Union Senior Center in Monroe County.

The workshop is free, participants are encouraged to sign up in advance by emailing 3DA@rcbi.org.

**SUCCESS STORY**

[Photo of Timothy Lawrence and Jeannette King]

Timothy Lawrence, right, is executive director of SkillsUSA. He toured RCBI Bridgeport and spoke with RCBI's Arley Carpenter and others about the importance of STEM skills and technical education.

**Entrepreneur Helps Clients Solve Big Problems**

With a tax refund and experience gained in the U.S. Navy, Jeannette King launched Strategic Resolution Experts Inc. eight years ago. Now the management consultant firm is thriving, and King was recently named West Virginia's Small Business Person of the Year.

King grew up in Bluefield and Baltimore, Maryland. Her parents couldn't afford to send her to college, so she decided to take advantage of education and experience offered by the military. During her six years in the Navy, she worked in information technology and human resources and developed a knack for solving organizational problems. She also worked her way through college and, after leaving America's Navy, worked as a contractor for the U.S. Coast Guard and then as a consultant.

In 2007, King launched SRE in Martinsburg. The company now employs 22 people, half of whom live and work in West Virginia.

"West Virginia is my home, and the reason I started my business was to provide meaningful employment to people in the state," she said.

**Free Business Workshop Offered May 8**

In recognition of National Small Business Week, a Business Fundamentals workshop for entrepreneurs and small business owners will be presented free of charge May 8 at the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) in Huntington.
RCBI Offers Course on 3D Printing

The Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) is offering a course during which teachers will design and fabricate 3D objects using computer-aided design (CAD) modeling software and 3D printers.

The hands-on course, presented with the June Harless Center at Marshall University, is based on a curriculum developed by Stratasys, a leading manufacturer of 3D Printers and support materials.

The 10-day course will run each weekday June 8 through 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the RCBI Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, located at 1050 Fourth Avenue in downtown Huntington.

Review the syllabus and course objectives and register [here](#).

U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Tours Huntington

U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Jay Williams participated in an economic revitalization roundtable discussion hosted at RCBI on Friday, March 27 focusing on the greater Huntington Tri-state.

Moderated by Huntington Mayor Steve Williams, the discussion offered participating business and community leaders the opportunity to talk about collaborative efforts to revitalize the region’s economy. The roundtable assembled key stakeholders who discussed innovative, entrepreneurial and collaborative ways that Huntington can become a gateway for renewal across the Tri-state and beyond.

Mayor Williams was joined by U.S. Rep. Evan Jenkins, Marshall President Gary White, Chamber of Commerce President Cathy Burns, Kristopher Hopkins, Director of Business & Industrial Development for the West Virginia Development Office, and several other community and business leaders.

Huntington Mayor Steve Williams led the discussion about efforts to revitalize the region's economy.
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.