WV Makes Festival set for October 2

RCBI and a group of statewide partners are gearing up for the 2015 West Virginia Makes Festival, slated for Oct. 2. The celebration, held at Heritage Farm Museum and Village (3300 Harvey Road in Huntington, W.Va.), coincides with National Manufacturing Day. Join us at the 2015 WV Makes Festival presented by RCBI, Advantage Valley, Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, Education Alliance, the City of Huntington, Heritage Farm Museum and Village, i-79 Development Council, Huntington Museum of Art, Marshall University, Superintendent of Cabell County Schools, the W.Va. Department of Education & the Arts, and the W.Va. Small Business Development Center.

The 2015 WV Makes Festival will feature a Design Challenge as well as exhibits and tours. Makers and students of all ages who enter our Design Challenge are eligible for one of five awards, including the $1,000 “Best of Show.” Details are online at WV Makes Festival.

New Engineering Complex Features Marshall Seal

When Marshall students enter the Arthur Weisberg Family Applied Engineering Complex next month they will see the university seal inlaid in the lobby floor. The Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) played a part in creating this special feature of the new building. RCBI worked with Paris Signs of Huntington to create the John Marshall seal at the Engineering Complex. Pieces of metal that make up this seal were cut on precision machinery at RCBI.

3D Printing Camps at RCBI Spark Innovation

The Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) hosted 3D Printing Camps in Huntington and Bridgeport this summer. More than 80 middle and high school students from West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Connecticut designed their own 3D-printed items, worked alongside machinists in RCBI’s Technical Services Centers, and explored entrepreneurship. The camp is funded in part by a grant from Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs, the foundation of the Fabricators & Manufacturers Association.

Wilson Selected as 2015 State Star

Small Business Coach Amber Wilson has been selected as West Virginia’s 2015 State Star.
**for America's Small Business Development Centers announced Kristina Oliver, state director of the West Virginia Small Business Development Center (WVSBDC).**  

**Read more**

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**Machinist Graduate Develops Skills During Internship**

A graduate of a career skills program at RCBI is honing his manufacturing skills as an intern here. Curtis Hammond is a resident of Apple Grove, Mason County, and a graduate of Point Pleasant High School. The 2015 graduate of the RCBI Machinist Technology/CNC Program is using his CAD/CAM design skills as he works with computer-controlled production equipment primarily at RCBI Charleston.

**Huntington Lands Brownfields Grant**

The city of Huntington received another $400,000 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the study of industrial brownfield sites. The city hopes to redevelop nearly 80 acres of underutilized, former manufacturing facilities along the Ohio River between the Marshall University campus and the Highlawn neighborhood.

**Workshops Focus on Startups**

RCBI and the West Virginia Small Business Development Center (WVSBDC) are partners in a continuing series of training workshops designed specifically for startups or new businesses.

**Becker/SMC Achieves ISO 9001 Recertification**

Becker/SMC has earned ISO 9001: 2008 re-certification, a commitment by the organization to enhance customer satisfaction by meeting customer- or market-specific requirements and continually improve its performance.

The Huntington-based manufacturer faced a significant challenge as it prepared for its recertification. After restructuring and implementing a new business management system, the process became more complicated. Becker/SMC then turned to the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) for Quality Management systems assistance.

"In a month’s time, RCBI got us back on track," said Darron Nelson, OEM product line manager for Becker/SMC. "It was painful. It was a long month, but they did it."

Charlotte Weber, Director & CEO at RCBI, congratulated Becker/SMC on its focus on Quality.

“We’re proud to have helped another manufacturer earn ISO re-certification - and equally pleased to add its name to the growing list of companies we have similarly assisted,” Weber said.

**Quick Links**

Huntington campers toured DARCO International where they learned about advanced manufacturing, entrepreneurship and 3D Printing. Throughout the week-long camps, students explored how 3D Printing is being used to develop new products and received hands-on experience with RCBI’s precision machinery. See more photos on RCBI’s Facebook page.

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Curtis Hammond

**Read more**
RCBI, Mountwest Launch 3D Printing Emphasis

College students in West Virginia now can complete a degree with a concentration in additive manufacturing, better known as 3D Printing.

The Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) and Mountwest Community and Technical College (MCTC) are partnering on a new Additive Manufacturing concentration in the Engineering Design Technology program at MCTC.

Students enrolled in the program will attend classes at MCTC and at RCBI in downtown Huntington.

"With this program, we're going to teach people the next generation of manufacturing," said Dr. Steven Brown, dean of the Career & Technical Division at MCTC. "With these skills, people can establish their own companies. They can become entrepreneurs."

The program gives students hands-on experience with 3D Printers and includes Rapid-Prototyping Techniques, Engineering Design, and Additive Manufacturing Techniques courses.

"This educational partnership reinforces classroom learning with hands-on experience, providing students access to the latest technologies and equipment available at RCBI," said Charlotte Weber, RCBI Director & CEO. "We enjoy seeing our students gain confidence by implementing the engineering principles they learn in class, so they're prepared for rewarding careers in today's New Manufacturing."

ARC Event Focuses on Transforming Communities

Appalachian communities are working to invest their resources strategically to help build a stronger economic future. An important part of this process is applying lessons learned from successful programs throughout the Region. These strategic applications (apps) can help communities shape their development efforts for more impactful and sustainable results that will transform Appalachia's economy.

The Appalachian Regional Commission's October 2015 Appalachian Apps conference will showcase effective approaches to addressing key development issues facing the region's communities today. Concurrent sessions will focus on local models for increasing access to broadband; supporting employer-driven workforce development; and engaging the region's next generation of leaders.

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Conference plenary sessions will bring together government and industry leaders to explore how current initiatives and emerging opportunities can also play an important role in shaping local economic development programs.

Join your colleagues in Somerset, Kentucky, Oct. 14-15 to learn strategies your community can use to build a stronger future. Registration will be available soon!

Watch your email for more information or visit www.arc.gov for updates.

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.