SAVE THE DATE

Courses Focus on ISO 9001 Changes

The Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) in partnership with the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce and the West Virginia Manufacturer's Association presents a series of one-day sessions on the impact of change to ISO 9001 presented by Paul Jinks of Q-Quest International.

The one-day sessions cover the revised ISO 9001 Standard that takes into account the vast changes in technology, business diversity and global commerce.

State Ag Showcase Kicks off Oct. 16

The West Virginia Agricultural Innovation Showcase will be presented in Moorefield by the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) and Eastern West Virginia Community & Technical College with support from the Benedum Foundation.

Marshall University, RCBI Receive EDA Funding

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) has awarded $100,000 to Marshall University to promote economic development in West Virginia.

Funding for Marshall University's EDA University Center enables the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) to expand the mission of its successful InnovateWV program by working to create a culture of commercialization, entrepreneurship and advanced innovation and skills training initiatives that serve 18 West Virginia counties.

InnovateWV empowers small businesses and entrepreneurs by providing them access to advanced technology and expertise so they can turn their innovative ideas into reality, which helps create and encourage business opportunities, strengthen entrepreneurship, increase competitiveness as well as generate and diversify the economies in Boone, Cabell, Fayette, Greenbrier, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Mason, Mercer, Mingo, Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Raleigh, Summers, Wayne, Webster and Wyoming counties.

"InnovateWV has provided important seed capital and technical assistance to entrepreneurs and manufacturers who have increased their productivity, invested in West Virginia, and/or enhanced their workplace skills levels," said Charlotte Weber, RCBI Director & CEO.

SUCCESS STORY

Prototype Helps Steel Maker Secure New Business

With assistance from an Innovate WV grant, funded in part by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, a Huntington-based steel fabricator developed prototypes of a product that helped the company win new orders at an international trade show.

The InnovateWV grant initiative allows companies to access specialized manufacturing technology assistance at the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing - from the initial innovative concept through computer-aided design, reverse engineering, prototyping, fabrication and machining.

Steel of West Virginia Inc. worked with RCBI engineers on the development of prototypes for bulb flats, used as
The event on Oct. 16-17 at the Moorefield Armory will focus on emerging technology and best practices in agriculture.

Farmers and others involved in agribusiness throughout West Virginia are encouraged to participate in the symposium.

For more information, contact Bill Woodrum, the coordinator of RCBI's Agriculture Innovations initiatives, at bwoodrum@rcbi.org.

**Event Aimed at Entrepreneurs**

Marshall University, the City of Huntington, the West Virginia Small Business Development Center and Generation Huntington are presenting a one-day workshop for individuals thinking of starting their own business.

The workshop is Sept. 25, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Memorial Student Center at Marshall University. The event is designed to help would-be entrepreneurs avoid costly mistakes and learn how to present their ideas to potential investors.

**Students Receive Top Scholarships**

Two students enrolled in the Machinist Technology/CNC Program at the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing (RCBI) are among recipients of the 2015 Grainger Tools for Tomorrow scholarship program.

Travis Hoy and Aaron Walls, both of Mannington, W.Va., are second-year students at the RCBI Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center in Bridgeport. In addition to stiffeners by the shipbuilding industry. The prototypes were made through additive manufacturing, better known as 3D Printing, out of powdered steel on the EOSINT M280 Direct Metal Laser Sintering system at the RCBI Charleston Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center.

Company executives took the prototypes of the bulb flats to the International Workboat Show in New Orleans to show commercial shipbuilders, U.S. Naval engineers and others. Photographs of the prototypes also were incorporated in advertisements in trade magazines. The company believes these marketing efforts have paid off.

**Design Challenge at Festival Celebrates Ingenuity**

Calling all makers! Inventors, entrepreneurs and artists of all ages are encouraged to enter the Design Challenge at the 2015 West Virginia Makes Festival. The Design Challenge provides makers the opportunity to demonstrate their new ideas or inventive skills and rewards their creative inspirations.

RCBI and a group of statewide partners will present the 2015 West Virginia Makes Festival, a celebration of ingenuity and creativity, on Oct. 2 at Heritage Farm Museum and Village in Huntington. To participate in our Design Challenge, you need to register. It's free and easy to register online at www.rcbi.org/15Makes.

**Seminars Aim to Help Small Businesses, Start-Ups**

The U.S. Small Business Administration is hosting two free events in the Kanawha Valley aimed at assisting start-ups and small businesses.

At the Taking Your Business Global seminar on Sept. 9, representatives from the SBA, the West Virginia Development Office and the U.S. Commercial Service will outline the resources available to companies that want to begin exporting or expand their current exporting.

The seminar is 1 to 3 p.m. at the West Virginia State University Economic Development Center at 1506 Kanawha Blvd. West in Charleston. Those who cannot attend in person can view the event through live streaming.

Register by calling 304-720-1401.

The Small Business Lender Matchmaker event on Sept. 10 will help start-ups and small businesses that need capital.

The event is 8:30 to 11 a.m. at the James C. Wilson University Union at West Virginia State University in Institute.

**MU Engineering Dean to Lead National Committee**

Dr. Wael Zatar, dean of Marshall University's College of Information Technology and Engineering, has been appointed chairman of the National Committee on Structural Fiber Reinforced Polymers of the Transportation Research Board of the National Academics.
The committee is among the largest and most prestigious national- and international- committees on the subject of Structural Fiber Reinforced Polymers. Zatar’s initial service is for three years, from 2015 to 2018, although he said it is expected to be extended for another three years to 2021.

“As a proud Marshall employee, it is my great honor to serve in this capacity,” Zatar said. “I will be the first from the state of West Virginia to serve in such a national role in the field of composites’ application to transportation infrastructure.”

The TRB is a division of the National Research Council (NRC), a private, nonprofit institution that provides expertise in science and technology to the government, the public, and the scientific and engineering communities.

The NRC is jointly administered by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine.

Zatar said the committee is concerned with all aspects of the development and use of structural applications of fiber-reinforced polymer (FRP) composites for transportation-related structures, including bridges, maintenance, buildings, pipes, sign and luminaire support poles, guide rails, and guard rails.

**Future Innovators Gather for FIRST LEGO Robotics**

RCBI Huntington recently hosted a two-day Boot Camp for teams new to the FIRST LEGO League, a robotics program for middle school students. The event was led by the Educator Resource Center at the NASA Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) facility in Fairmont. As a sponsor of FLL, RCBI provided teams at the boot camp with their own LEGO Mindstorms EV3 robot and expansion set. The boot camp is just the first of four FLL events scheduled at RCBI this year.

“RCBI is proud to be a part of this cultural entrepreneurial movement in West Virginia working with a group of leaders to celebrate science, technology, and innovation,” said Charlotte Weber, Director & CEO of RCBI.
Middle school teams anxiously watch to see if the LEGO robots they built and programmed perform tasks according to plan on a specialized playing field. These teams joined others from Boone, Kanawha and Lincoln counties during LEGO FIRST Robotics Boot Camp at RCBI Huntington.

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
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.