3D-printed lures land top prize at WV Makes Festival

With the bait of 3D-printed fishing lures, Bryan Bush of Lewisburg, W.Va., hooked the attention of both festival goers and design judges alike to earn the "Best in Show" grand prize and $1,000 during the third-annual West Virginia Makes Festival. The lures designed and 3D-printed by the middle school teacher were among dozens of innovative creations on display Oct. 7 during the Robert C. Byrd Institute's (RCBI) annual celebration of creativity and ingenuity.

Staged this year on the Huntington campus of Marshall University, the festival attracted 3D Printing enthusiasts, live music acts, special technology exhibits, games, interactive attractions, performance artists, students of all ages, makers and entrepreneurs. The focus on STEM skills and artisanal crafts reinforces hands-on opportunities available to everyone, according to Charlotte Weber, RCBI Director & CEO.
Bissett returns to lead Huntington Regional Chamber

Huntington native William "Bill" Bissett has been named President and CEO of the Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Bissett currently serves as President of the Kentucky Coal Association and is the former Chief of Staff/Senior Vice President for Communications at Marshall University.

Bissett earned a bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree from Marshall University. He will begin his new duties Nov. 1.

David Graley has served as interim president since Cathy Burns let the job to become Huntington city manager.

RCBI fast-tracks machinist skills training, credentialing

RCBI has developed a new fast-track training and retraining program for displaced workers and others with machining experience.

RCBI is offering individual NIMS (National Institute for Metalworking Skills) testing at its Huntington, Charleston and Bridgeport technology centers for those proficient in areas of metalworking. Individuals can earn national credentials that expand employment opportunities in a very short time.

The cost is $250 for each NIMS test in any of the seven Level 1 manual metalworking skills.

In addition, RCBI announces an accelerated program for machinists. Individuals testing for and earning three manual machining NIMS certifications will receive college credits and enroll directly in RCBI's CNC (computer-numerical-control) machining program.
SBA honors W.Va. college's unique business incubator

Eastern West Virginia Community & Technical College and its student-run store and new business incubator called the New Biz Launchpad have received a $50,000 grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

SBA awarded the New Biz Launchpad one of only 68 annual Growth Accelerator Fund Competition awards.

"I couldn't be more thrilled for our students, businesses and region for this award and national recognition," said Chuck Terrell, president of Eastern. "This award recognizes the opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship at rural community colleges."

The New Biz Launchpad started in May 2015 as the first of its kind at a rural community college incubator. It was created to serve as a local and regional entrepreneurship catalyst and collaborator for economic diversification and development.

Showcases to highlight latest advances in agriculture

The Robert C. Byrd Institute is hosting two West Virginia Agricultural Innovation Showcases, the first Oct. 28 in Moorefield and the second Nov. 18 in Huntington.

Now in their second year, the West Virginia Agricultural Innovation Showcases are presented in partnership with Eastern West Virginia Community & Technical College with support from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

The events will focus on emerging technology and best practices in agriculture. Growers, farmers, educators and others involved in agribusiness across West Virginia are encouraged to participate in the symposium. This year's events feature a special track for young people.
The Oct. 28 event is at the Moorefield Armory, while the Nov. 18 event is at the former West Virginia National Guard Armory in Huntington, 800 Virginia Ave., which now operates as a processing plant.

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

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**RCBI students honored with Grainger scholarships**

Two students enrolled in the Machinist Technology/CNC Program at RCBI are among recipients of the 2016 Grainger Tools for Tomorrow Scholarship Program.

Colby Sidenstricker of New Martinsville and Isaiah Summerfield of Philippi are second-year students at the RCBI Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center in Bridgeport.

Each student received a $2,000 scholarship for this school year and is eligible to receive a customized toolkit when he graduates.

In addition to developing machining skills that will allow them to earn individual credentials from the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS), each student is working toward an associate degree from Mountwest Community & Technical College.

To promote careers in skilled trades, Grainger launched the Grainger Tools for Tomorrow scholarship program in 2006. Since the program's inception, Grainger has awarded nearly 950 scholarships.

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**Cope oversees day-to-day operations as deputy director**
Jamie Cope of Scott Depot, who earned a mechanical engineering degree from Washington University in St. Louis, has been named Deputy Director as well as Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at RCBI.

Cope has served as interim Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship since January.

"We are very excited that Jamie has accepted this new challenge at RCBI," said Charlotte Weber, RCBI Director & CEO. "He brings a wealth of entrepreneurial experience and knowledge as well as a strong background in engineering. He has done an outstanding job interacting with our manufacturers and business startups, and I'm confident he will continue meeting their technology needs as he directs day-to-day functions at RCBI."

Courses provide opportunity to learn 3D-design software

RCBI is offering 3D-design courses at its Advanced Manufacturing Technology Centers in November:

- RCBI Bridgeport: Nov. 7-9
- RCBI Charleston: Nov. 7-11
- RCBI Huntington: Nov. 14-16

The course, SolidWorks Essentials, teaches participants to use the mechanical design software to create models of parts and assemblies.

The cost of the three-day courses is $735, while the cost of the five-day course is $975.

The class runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day.

For more information, contact Becky Calwell at 304.781.1690 or bcalwell@rcbi.org.
Step Up for Women leads directly to jobs for graduates

The first graduates of Step Up for Women Advanced Manufacturing Pre-Apprenticeship Program at RCBI are finding success - and jobs. The 10-week program prepares women for manufacturing careers, teaching them the skills they need to succeed as machinists or in related industrial occupations. The initiative is a partnership between West Virginia Women Work and RCBI's Apprenticeship Works, the National Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeship Program.

"Over 75 percent of our first graduating class have entered the manufacturing workforce and started a path that leads to careers with good wages, benefits and solid prospects for continued advancement," said Charlotte Weber, RCBI Director & CEO.

Read more

THE VIDEO FILE

Alternative funding for small businesses

This RCBI presentation on alternative funding sources for small businesses features an overview of non-loan funding available to empower entrepreneurs/manufacturers and includes specifics about the application process.

Robotics camps immerse student in STEM

Check out what dozens of students experienced during RCBI's summer robotics camps. Watch as they program Mindstorms EV3 robots to perform various tasks on a custom game table.
**RCBI technology gives local manufacturer a boost**

Rick Davis of Innovative Tooling Solutions in Putnam County discusses how RCBI's technical services and equipment benefit his business.

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**Upcoming events**

**October 2016**
Oct. 28 - W.Va. Agricultural Innovation Showcase, 9 am - 3 pm, Moorefield

**November 2016**
Nov. 1 - Weaving Class, 5:30 pm - 7 pm, Maker Vault at RCBI Huntington
Nov. 5 - FLL State Qualifying Tournament, 9 am - 4 pm, RCBI Huntington
Nov. 10 - SBA Webinar: Alternative Financing for Small Business, 11:30 am - noon

Nov. 10 - Reception for Huntington Chamber President, 5 pm - 7 pm, RCBI Huntington
Nov. 15 - SBA Webinar: Cost, Profit, Accounting, Auditors, 11:30 am - noon
Nov. 11 - Veterans Day Open House, 2 pm - 4 pm, RCBI Bridgeport and Huntington
Nov. 17 - Apprenticeship Works Signing Ceremony, 1 pm - 2 pm, RCBI Huntington
Nov. 18 - Agricultural Innovation Showcase, 9 am - 3 pm, Huntington

**December 2016**
Dec. 1 - SBA Webinar: Credit Reports & Scores Explained, 11:30 am - noon
Dec. 1 - Women Work Career Day, 10 am - 2 pm, RCBI Huntington

*Call 800.469.7224 or email [frontdesk@rcbi.org](mailto:frontdesk@rcbi.org) for more information.*
ABOUT US

The Robert C. Byrd Institute (RCBI) provides leading-edge equipment, specialized training and staff expertise so entrepreneurs and manufacturers of all sizes can innovate, create jobs and thrive. Learn more at www.rcbi.org.

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