

MANUFACTURING MATTERS MONTHLY

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Belmont's Milpower Source partnering with community college to develop skilled manpower

Ask entrepreneurs across the state and they'll tell you advanced manufacturing has long been the unsung hero of the N.H. economy. Add just 100 jobs in the state's largest economic sector, wrote the N.H. Center for Public Policy Studies in 2011, and you could see a total economic boost of \$102 million a year, far exceeding the impact of other private industries.

The story is good for individual workers, too, with average weekly wages in the industry soaring to nearly \$250 more than the average of wages in all other private N.H. industries. Thus, it might be a surprise to hear hiring managers say a major growth obstacle isn't demand for products, but a workforce shortage.

The challenge? Over the last two decades, manufacturing in New Hampshire has morphed into a high-tech economic giant, but the science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills of job seekers have not kept up, hiring managers say. And they need help.

That's where the Community College System of NH, under the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant, has stepped in. Working in partnership with advanced manufacturers, each of the system's colleges is expanding or developing new advanced manufacturing labs, equipment and curricula to directly meet the needs of the industry.

Milpower Source of Belmont is one of those partners. It's a small company with a big job and since 1984, has been a global force in the design, manufacture and service of power supplies for aerospace, defense and commercial specifications.

While Milpower Source can boast of worldwide impact, its staff of fewer than 50 people has built strong working relationships and the company prides itself on a family atmosphere.

Here, we meet Jennifer Winfrey, manager of human resources for Milpower Source.

Q: Describe a product you manufacture and the effect it has on consumers' lives.

A: Our uninterrupted power supplies (UPS) and converters have attracted clients like Northrop Grumman; Raytheon; Honeywell; U.S. Army



Jennifer Winfrey is human resources manager at Milpower Source in Belmont, N.H.

Q: What does the future have in store for the Milpower Source workforce?

A: Many of the employees here at MPS have been with the company for a number of years — some since the company opened in 1984. While that's of great benefit, it also raises concern. Retirement is approaching for some of these longer-term employees, and it's difficult to find people with the right skills to satisfy our specific manufacturing needs.

Q: How have you partnered with Lakes Region Community College to help build the workforce?

A: To be successful in your position in life, you must be the solution to a problem. In New Hampshire's Lakes Region, a lack of manufacturing manpower is a problem, and I firmly believe the advanced manufacturing program at Lakes Region Community College is a big step toward solving that problem. So, when the college reached out to us last year to invite us to take part in developing and updating advanced manufacturing curricula, we were happy to do whatever we could.

Q: Who should choose a career in advanced manufacturing in New Hampshire?

A: Simply, confident, hardworking, intelligent men and women who have a desire to create something and to be a part of something significant. There is a demand here.

To learn about advanced manufacturing training and academic programs at Lakes Region Community College, email TAACCTT project coordinator Don Brough at dbrough@csnh.edu. To learn more about CCSNH advancements under the TAACCTT grant, e-mail marketing coordinator Desiree Crossley at dcrossley@csnh.edu. To learn more about Milpower Source, visit www.Milpower.com or email Jennifer@Milpower.com.

Navy and Air force; NASA; Boeing; and many others. They are used in fighter jets, military ground vehicles, radars, tanks, missiles, unmanned aircrafts, ships and satellites.

Our family takes pride in knowing that we are supporting our troops throughout each of our work days, and when you take your next trip on a Boeing 737, know we played a part in you reaching your destination safely.



Bicycle & car again get together on upper Union Avenue

Onlookers and employees of Irwin Marine tend to Donald Isabelle of 290 Messer Street yesterday at 2:48 p.m. on upper Union Avenue. Isabelle was slightly injured when he was riding his bicycle on the sidewalk in front of Laconia Electric Supply and collided with Lisa Giles who was exiting Walnut Street in her car on to Union Ave. Isabelle was taken to Lakes Region General Hospital as a precaution. It was the second incident in a week involving a cyclist and a vehicle on that stretch of the busy roadway. (Laconia Daily Sun photo/Gail Ober)

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own, whose front door is a few feet from the unit police searched, said there were things that struck her as strange even before that. She said someone had plugged an air freshener into a hallway wall outlet outside the unit and put a jar with fragrance sticks on the floor by the door, as if to mask an odor.

"I thought, 'Why would two guys be worried about the smell in the hall?'" she said.

Authorities have said trouble that led to Lloyd's killing happened on June 14, when Lloyd went with Hernandez to a Boston nightclub.

"Apparently, Mr. Lloyd saw some people that he knew and began conversing with them," McCauley said Thursday. "The defendant took exception to that."

Previously, McCauley had said only that Hernandez had unspecified trouble with the people and that a few hours before the killing he told a friend he couldn't trust anyone anymore.

Prosecutors have said that on June 16 Hernandez and two unidentified friends picked up Lloyd from his Boston home in a rented silver Nissan Maxima, took him to a remote area of an industrial park and shot him five times.

Lloyd, in the minutes before his death, sent a series of texts to his sister, who had seen him get into the car.

"Did you see who I was with?" said the first, at 3:07 a.m. June 17.

"Who?" she finally replied.

"NFL," he texted back, then added: "Just so you know."

Prosecutors have said they used cellphone tower data, text messages and surveillance video, including video from the security system Hernandez installed inside his home, to reconstruct his movements that night.



Employee Ron Brooks (left) has been with Milpower Source of Belmont since it opened in 1984. The unit he's holding is the M793, which is used in Boeing 737 aircraft.

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