



**M A N U F A C T U R E   Y O U R   F U T U R E**

## A Message to Parents:

You've probably heard some people say manufacturing is a dying industry in America. You may even believe that manufacturing offers only dead-end jobs in less than appealing environments. Why, then, would you want your son or daughter to choose a manufacturing career path?

**Here is the good news.** Manufacturing, especially among Connecticut's small to mid-sized companies, is alive and well, and actively looking to recruit young people to fill positions that will be vacated in the next five years by retiring workers. (In fact, 84% of manufacturers believe that 25% of their workforce will be retiring in the next five years.) If it's quality of life you're looking for, then manufacturers, especially in today's advanced technological companies, offer great benefits including lucrative salaries ranging from entry level CNC programmers at \$33,000 to engineers who make anywhere from \$50,000 to well over \$100,000. Not only that, many manufacturers will pay college tuitions for employees who want to advance and explore other options.

The list of products made in Connecticut is a highly impressive one. For example, Tyco/US Surgical is the largest supplier of plastics in the production of surgical sutures in the world. Pratt & Whitney supplies parts for half of the world's commercial airlines, and Connecticut boasts two-thirds of all fuel cell technology research and development in this country. Trumpf, Inc. in Farmington is a cutting edge industry leader in the manufacture of industrial lasers. Did you also know that Lipton Teas, Hellmann Mayonnaise and Dove Soap are packaged right here in Connecticut?

Despite recent cutbacks in the state, many larger manufacturing companies have retooled, resulting in the creation of smaller manufacturers who are looking for good people. "The industry is adding people in smaller numbers to smaller companies," says Selim Noujaim, Executive Vice President, Noujaim Tool Company. "These smaller mom-and-pop shops started in basements in the 50s and 60s and now are creating great demand for a skilled workforce."

As the state's largest business association with many of its members being manufacturers, the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA) has the voice of manufacturers. What they are telling CBIA is that there is a dire need for well-trained CNC programmers, machinists, tool-and-die makers and engineers to name a few. They cite strong basic math, science, technological skills, as well as literacy and communication skills as being critical to success.

How far your child can go in manufacturing is up to him or her. Your child can get a good education in high school and still obtain a valued job in manufacturing. If he or she wants to go farther, The Connecticut Community College's College of Technology (COT) programs are a good place to start. For more information about the COT, go to the Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing Website at [www.NextGenMfg.org](http://www.NextGenMfg.org), or go to CBIA's Website at [www.cbia.com](http://www.cbia.com).

Choices today will affect your child's future. Help your child make educated decisions. Consider manufacturing as one way to obtain a fulfilling, quality of life. **The sky's the limit!**