

Makes sense to me.



MetalForming magazine editor Brad Kuvin has covered the metalforming and fabricating industry since 1984. His interviews with engineers and managers at manufacturing sites aim to transfer technology to the magazine's readers and website visitors, helping them improve productivity, quality and safety.

Tags: training
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Summer Jobs for Teachers = Better Skill Training for Students

July 12th, 2010 by Dave Sansone

There is a seemingly continuous drone about how schools are failing their primary customers – their students and their local manufacturers. Manufacturers contend that schools don't have a clue about what goes on in their facilities and, through their lack of understanding, perpetuate the concept that manufacturing is an undesirable career choice. Students and their parents complain that schools don't adequately prepare their graduates for real-world experiences.

I'm not going to debate that question here but, instead, will reflect on some refreshing news. This summer seven teachers from high schools and technical colleges throughout Connecticut will be spending 160 hours each working in manufacturing facilities to gain hands-on experience with technology that they can then share with their students back in the classroom. They'll be working in such disciplines as CNC machining, robotics, electrical engineering, lean technology and engineering network services.

The capstone of their experience will be the development of a "work-based learning project for their students, providing a more realistic understanding of how classroom learning is applied on the job," according to Judith K. Resnick, CBIA's director of workforce development and training, and executive director of Connecticut Business and Industry Association's Education Foundation.

In fact this program, funded by the National Science Foundation, has been functioning successfully for several years now. What a breath of fresh air!! Teachers learning real-world experience they can pass on to their students. Education and industry working together for the benefit of both. Grant money being spent wisely. Bravo Connecticut!!



David C. Sansone, CAE, is Executive Director of the Precision Metalforming Association (PMA) Educational Foundation and PMA's Director of Training and Education. He leads the association's efforts to provide workforce-development solutions to the metalforming industry and interfaces with the industry's workforce-solution providers.

Tags: jobs, workforce development
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The Robin Hood Mentality

July 8th, 2010 by Gretchen Zierick

We all grew up hearing the tale of Robin Hood, who with his merry men robbed from the rich to give to the poor. Robin Hood was the hero, and so began a long history of rooting for the underdog—the poor, the weak, the needy.

How many of us have accepted this as an acceptable code of behavior? Very many, as I was recently reminded.

A few weeks ago, the administrator of the self-funded part of my company's medical-benefit plan called to tell me that one of our employees had submitted several fraudulent claims. When confronted, the employee admitted the fraud but was distressed to learn that he had, in actuality, been stealing money from his employer. He thought he was defrauding an insurance company. Stealing from a (rich) insurance company would have been okay in his mind, I surmised.

Our elected representatives have bought into this same mindset—witness the administration's proposed tax increases, designed to "tax the rich" and benefit the poor. But now let's consider how that wealth is created. Most people and companies earning a lot of money do so through hard work. In my book, they are the productive rich. Should the reward for hard work be to become a target of thieves?