

Friday deadline to apply for Workforce Alliance manufacturing training program

By Mary Ellen Godin, Record-Journal staff

Jobseekers interested in manufacturing careers have until Friday to register for a five-week training program sponsored by the Workforce Alliance.

“Skill Up for Manufacturing” is a job placement program open to high school graduates and state residents 18 years or older who are unemployed or underemployed. The program aims to expand the state’s manufacturing workforce pipeline and connect qualified candidates to unfilled employment opportunities, according to an announcement from the Workforce Alliance.

The application deadline for the first Skill Up for Manufacturing session is Friday. Interested candidates are encouraged to visit <http://www.workforcealliance.biz/skillup> and apply.

The classes at Gateway Community College begin Feb. 4 and end March 8. Participants will attend class six hours per day, five days a week. Individual job search assistance is available during and after the program.

Employers will have direct hire opportunities and access to hiring incentives, and expect to continue training on the job.

Interested applicants should apply online, complete a Manufacturing Skills Inventory Session at the American Job Centers in New Haven and Meriden, and create or upload a resume. Applicants who do not score sufficiently on math, spatial reasoning and basic ruler reading can complete a refresher course and retake the assessment.

Manufacturers participating in Skill Up for Manufacturing include: Penn Globe; PTA Plastics; Wepeco Plastics, Inc.; Brooks & Whittle Packaging Solutions; and the New Haven Manufacturers Association. Course work was developed with the help of participating manufacturers and includes basic trade knowledge.

The first Skill Up session can accept 20 students. According to the Workforce Alliance, aid is available for travel reimbursement, daycare assistance, required books, tools and clothing. Additionally, there is a cash stipend awarded to participants for successful completion of training benchmarks. The course is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor through the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act and Temporary Aid to Needy Families.