

Collaborative Partnerships: Moraine Valley Community College

Programmatic goals of the manufacturing bridge programs were achieved, in part, due to collaborative partnerships with manufacturing employers and visits to MVCC career programs. WBF 2.0 Project participants toured manufacturing facilities and participated in hands-on activities related to math in manufacturing. Participants also visited automotive technology courses and used micrometers to measure rotors. Welding instructors provided WBF 2.0 participants with opportunities to weld materials and discussed vast employment opportunities. During a field trip to AEP Industries, participants received a math assessment that is included with every application for entry-level employment. These examples of the real-world application of measurement tools and vocational math contributed to increased math test scores for WBF 2.0 participants. Feedback from participant evaluations consistently mentioned the classroom tours and employer site visits as one of the most favorable aspects of Exploring Careers in Manufacturing.

The collaborative partners that contributed to the success of Exploring Careers in Manufacturing are: AEP Industries, Automotive Mentoring Group, Chicago Magnesium, Magnet-Schultz of America, and Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Chicago. The following MVCC programs extended their support to Exploring Careers in Manufacturing: Automotive Technology; Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning; Non-destructive Testing; Steelworkers for the Future; and Welding.

Other MVCC internal partners have been instrumental in supporting the full implementation of the project's goals. WBF 2.0 Project participants are recruited from and referred to the Job Resource Center, BTW 50+, TRIO, WIA, and DOL grant programs at MVCC. This co-enrollment, cross-referral process has increased our ability to achieve WBF 2.0 Project programmatic goals. Other referral sources include public libraries, community-based organizations, and the Illinois Department of Employment Security.