



Out of the Blue

News About the Piper Family

HOLIDAY LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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MOBILE TRAINING UNIT SHARPENS SKILLS

Nineteen inactive employees took the first step towards their return to the production floor on November 30 when they began a rigorous training program designed to enhance their job-related skill sets.

The training program is called MOST, which stands for Mobile Outreach Skills Training. It was conducted by Florida MEP (Manufacturing Extension Partnership) and focuses on providing students with comprehensive training in all aspects of the manufacturing process from the purchase of materials to the finished product. Additionally, students gain exposure to various manufacturing principles such as Kaizen, Kanban, and Lean.

The training took place on the Piper grounds in one of MEP's five mobile units. The mobile unit is equipped with 31 computer work stations as well as 3 hands-on work stations. This "classroom" training session lasts 2 weeks and is conducted in a boot camp type of format. The first day of the session is devoted entirely to shop math. Students brush up on the basics of addition, multiplication, decimals and fractions as well as taking measurements with a ruler. Day 2 requires students to apply those math skills while reading blue prints. From there, students advance to three practical modules: quality & measurement, CNC turning and CNC milling. Each of these modules takes approximately a day and a half to

complete. The students are required to complete 14 modules in total and get tested after each one.

Once the two week session is completed, students receive several weeks of on-the-job training based on a customized plan that an MEP trainer prepares for the student and his Supervisor. Additionally, students must also complete an 8 hour Lean manufacturing exercise that is tested and graded.

Although students are not financially compensated for participating in the training, they do receive credit for 80 hours of adult continuing education through the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT). The employees selected to participate in the program are scheduled to return to work at Piper in January.

Feedback from those who have participated in the training has been very positive. According to Shear/Route employee **Royce Johnson**, "I have been through many different training courses in my life that follow a set curriculum and this is without a doubt one of the best, if not the best I have encountered...I had reservation about taking the course and must say I am glad I was a participant."

Congratulations to the MOST students, and we wish them well on their return to work.



Gladis Gutierrez, Maria Sanchez and Jorge Ramirez work on various training modules.



One of MEP's mobile training units.



Piper's first graduating class of MOST students.