

Mobile Job Training Program Connects Area Companies With Out-of-Work Residents

RIVIERA BEACH, Fla. – Following a successful session held in October 2009, the Florida Manufacturing Extension Partnership’s state-of-the-art Mobile Outreach Skills Training (M.O.S.T.) unit has returned to Palm Beach County to host another job training and placement program. Currently taking place on the premises of ITW VersaChem Corporation in Riviera Beach, the M.O.S.T. program is connecting eight area residents looking for work with local companies, such as Sancilio & Company, Inc., in search of qualified entry-level job candidates.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for our company to strengthen and augment our team,” said Alex Sancilio, Chairperson and Principal of Sancilio & Company, Inc. “When an organization steps up and says ‘we’ll help train your workforce,’ how can you not take advantage of that? As a specialty pharmaceutical and development company, we depend on a highly-trained workforce. Rather than placing an ad in the classifieds and hoping for the best, with the M.O.S.T. program we know these graduates will have received training on the types of skills we need them to have.”

Outfitted with cutting-edge equipment, the Florida Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) M.O.S.T. traveling unit offers participants an opportunity to upgrade or learn new manufacturing skills through an intense, two-week training program. The program consists of practical skills, theory and hands-on curriculum including computer-based 3-D simulations and hands-on, self-paced training modules. Participants not only receive job training, but also the promise of a job interview with employers ready to hire qualified applicants.

“By providing quick-start job training for small and mid-sized manufacturers in need of entry-level workers, Florida MEP can help our state’s manufacturers maintain a competitive edge in this current economic climate that has forced many companies to limit their self investment,” said Florida MEP Board Chair Gene Lussier. “After completing the M.O.S.T. program, trainees are walking away with an opportunity they didn’t have before and participating companies have an existing pool of skilled workers to interview instead starting the hiring and training process from scratch on their own.”

With the unique advantage of mobility, the M.O.S.T. program is able to take its services to the parts of the state where jobs and potential employees are located. The unit can be situated at an employer’s facility or a location convenient for trainees offering flexibility for both. The M.O.S.T. program can also be customized to suit the needs of participating employers thereby shortening the length of time before a trainee can become a productive employee.

“We are pleased to join with Florida MEP to support this latest training session in Palm Beach County. Through this partnership, we are able to help locally-based businesses by lowering the cost of hiring new employees, and bring critical job training services directly to the people in our area who need them,” said Kathryn Schmidt, President and CEO of Workforce Alliance, Inc. of Palm Beach County.

Candidates for the current Palm Beach County M.O.S.T. program were selected by Florida MEP and the Workforce Alliance, Inc. of Palm Beach County, a private, non-profit organization funded by state and federal dollars which connects businesses with jobseekers. To be eligible for the program, each M.O.S.T. participant must pass a basic education test and drug screening. Prior to selection for participation in the program, each candidate is interviewed by a M.O.S.T. representative.

The program is funded in part by a U.S. Department of Labor grant of \$856,000 and the Workforce Alliance, Inc. of Palm Beach County. For more information on Florida MEP or the M.O.S.T. unit, visit www.floridamep.org or <http://www.timewisemost.com/>.