



Colleagues,

We are pleased to report on a successful collaboration between McCann Tech and Taconic in Pittsfield as part of the MassHire Berkshire Workforce Board's Berkshire advanced manufacturing program.

David

Berkshire Advanced Manufacturing Training graduates 56



McCann welding program participants, from left to right: instructor Glenn Andrews, Logan O'Neil, Steven Barbeau, Grant Collingwood-Fox and instructor John Kline.

Despite interruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 56 trainees completed their training as part of [MassHire Berkshire Workforce Board](#)'s Berkshire

advanced manufacturing program. 21 un- and underemployed participants received certificates of completion for their participation in Introduction to Basic Advanced Manufacturing Skills training, held at [Taconic High School](#) in Pittsfield and [McCann Technical School](#) in North Adams. Six trainees completed training in welding (95 hours) held McCann Tech. The trainings combined classroom, hands-on and virtual training through [ToolingU](#) online manufacturing. Trainees received instruction in blueprint reading, shop math, computer-aided drafting, CAM, machining, and mill

and lathe programming as well as receiving OSHA 10 cards. These skills prepared participants to apply for entry-level positions at local manufacturers. In conjunction with the training, participants were given the opportunity to apply for employment through two virtual job fairs sponsored by the MassHire Career Center.

Additionally, 17 individuals participated in a one-day hoisting training that prepared them to take the state licensure exams in 1A and 3C hoisting. Both un- and underemployed individuals as well as incumbent workers from Berkshire employers took advantage of this training.

As part of the grant funding, Berkshire Workforce Board was able to offer 12 on-the-job training financial assistances to area manufacturers. This funding assists employers in reducing the cost of supporting the training of new hires, particularly in entry-level positions.

These trainings are part of a \$178,000 state grant awarded to the Berkshire Workforce Board for fiscal year 2020 to support the education and training of individuals with entry-level skills needed to enter and/or advance within the advanced manufacturing workforce in Berkshire County. Funding was provided by the [Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development](#) and administered by the Regional Employment Board of Hampden County. This is the fifth year of providing this training.

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