



**Commodore Perry School Board Encouraged to Support Training in Manufacturing**  
*Good jobs available for skilled workers in Mercer County manufacturing.*

HADLEY, PA – September 21, 2009 – “By the time your high school students graduate, the recession will be over and the metals manufacturers in this area will have plenty of good jobs for skilled workers,” said Dale Deist, President of Buck’s Fabricating in Hadley, to the members of the Commodore Perry School Board at their regular meeting on Monday evening. Also participating were Greg Carone, President of Technical Precision in Hadley; and Tom Cusick, President of Northeast Industrial Manufacturing, Inc. in Greenville.

They played a short video on Metals Skills Careers that highlighted opportunities in Metals Manufacturing offered by the ninety-six metals companies located in Mercer County.

“Skills learned now at the Mercer County Career Center in the high school years will allow the students who go into manufacturing to earn about 25% higher wages when they graduate than in nonmanufacturing jobs. We expect the recession to be gone by the time they graduate and the opportunities for good, family sustaining careers to still be available right here in Mercer County,” Deist emphasized. “And that’s not all. These are not dead-end jobs. Becoming skilled in metal skills can be a springboard to advancement within the manufacturing community – or any other career track. A good example of that is Commodore Perry Superintendent of Schools, Michael Stahlman, who began his career as a metal skills machinist prior to choosing to pursue a career in education.”

The presentation was the first in a series of Metals Skills Career opportunities presentations planned for county school boards. The goal of the Metals Skills Opportunities presentations is to encourage school board members to open the way to guidance counselors and teachers promote Metal Skills Careers as viable, family-sustaining careers. The required skills can be learned during the high school years at the Career Center. Graduates with these skills will find ample employment with Mercer County’s modern, progressive metals manufacturing companies and facilities. Mercer County has roughly twice as many manufacturing career opportunities per capita as the National average for counties its size.

“We are asking the School Board to allow students in grades 10, 11, and 12, who choose, to attend the Career Center for 480 to 1000 hours of metal skills careers instruction,” concluded Deist.

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