

Farrell School Board Gets the Message – Train Students Now for Good Careers in Metals Manufacturing

FARRELL, PA – November 10, 2009 –Good jobs – and family-sustaining careers – are still available in Mercer County’s manufacturing sector, but if students don’t get that message and obtain the skills they need now, while in high school, the county will suffer a server shortage of skilled employees when the economy recovers in the next couple of years. That was the message delivered last night to the Farrell School Board by Jeff Thompson, President of Thompson Fabricating, and a team of representatives from the manufacturing sector in Mercer County. Other participants from the manufacturers were Brent Ward, President of Integrated Fabrication and Machining, Tom Cusick, President of Northeast Manufacturing, Inc., Marcia Thompson of Thompson Fabricating, Brad Gosser, Director of Reynolds Development Industrial Park, and Dale Deist, President of Bucks Fabricating.

After Thompson, a graduate of the Mercer County Career Center, showed the Metal Skills Video, Ward told the members of the school board about the significant metal skills careers available at the ninety-six metals manufacturing companies in Mercer County, and about the modern equipment available for training at the Career Center.

During the discussion that followed, members of the board asked many in-depth questions about the opportunities and earnings potential. One Farrell Board member shared his own experience about earning a college degree before beginning his current career in metal skills

“We are very pleased with the reception we are receiving at the school board meetings,” said Dale Deist, who has been coordinating these presentations for the members of the metals manufacturing group. “The conversations and re-discovery by board members of this career opportunity for students, guidance counselors, parents, teachers and community has seemed to open many eyes to the fact that manufacturing still offers a significant opportunity for good careers right here close to home.”

The Farrell presentation was the fourth of twelve planned school board presentations to school boards about Metal Skills opportunities for family sustaining careers.

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