



**County of McHenry
County Administration**

2200 N. Seminary Avenue
Woodstock, IL 60098
Phone 815-334-4221 Fax 815-338-3991
www.co.mchenry.il.us/

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Adam Lehmann, Public Information Officer
McHenry County, IL
PHONE: 815-334-0309

McHenry County Receives Funding to Expand Job Training

WOODSTOCK, IL – Congresswoman Melissa Bean recently secured \$250,000 in job training funds for McHenry County College (MCC) to continue its Flexible and Sustainable Training (F.A.S.T.) program. The F.A.S.T program is the result of a partnership between McHenry County, the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation, the McHenry County Workforce Network, McHenry County Workforce Board, and MCC for workforce training. This is the second installment of funding that has been secured by Congresswoman Melissa Bean with \$387,187 secured for this program in 2008.

The first round of funding provided employer-identified, short-term occupational training needs in the specific fields of Basic Manufacturing, Computer Numerical Controlled (CNC) Machining and Bilingual Nurse Assistance (BNA). MCC launched the Basic Manufacturing course in the spring of 2010 and was able follow the Basic Manufacturing course with CNC Machining and the BNA training this past September.

The Basic Manufacturing course was a 96-hour, 16-week non-credit class that covered shop math, mechanical blueprint reading, measurement, and shop safety. Besides the class, program participants would be able to work toward a National Career Readiness Certificate, demonstrating to employers the competency level in reading and math. They also had the ability to improve their resume writing and interviewing skills through various workshops and worked with the McHenry County Workforce Network to assist them in finding positions in their new field upon completion of the course.

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Of those that were enrolled in the Basic Manufacturing course, 42% are now working and another 14% went on to the CNC Machining course. Furthermore, 74% of those enrolled in the Basic Manufacturing course, completed the program.

Last month, another class for the Basic Manufacturing course began, along with courses for Computer Numerical Controlled Machining and Bilingual Nurse Assistance. Participants in these programs will also work with Workforce Network staff on job search activities.

For more information, please contact Adam Lehmann at (815)334-0309 or alehmann@co.mchenry.il.us.

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