

Adult Ed, manufacturing collaboration receives funding

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BRISTOL — The Adult Education Diploma and Certificate (AEDAC) collaboration between Adult Education and Rowley Spring and Stamping has been funded for another round of training adults on manufacturing and job skills to meet the needs of area employers.

“It’s open to anyone in the city of Bristol and that includes high school seniors,” said Larry Covino, Adult Education director. “It’s for anybody that is unemployed or underemployed who can dedicate two and a half days a week for less than three months to jump start their lives.”

“If they haven’t graduated from high school we’ll also enroll them as part of our program working toward that,” he said.

The new funding was announced at a press conference Monday morning on the factory floor of Rowley, which shares a building with Adult Education on Redstone Hill Road.

Cindy Scoville, president/CEO of the Greater Bristol Chamber of Commerce, presented Covino with a check for about \$6,000, contributed by a number of area manufacturers and organizations.

Scoville said the Connecticut Department of Labor is giving a 50/50 matching grant toward the approximately \$37,000 cost of the program, with the Main Street Community Foundation and the City of Bristol also contributing.

“Our chamber is unique because we have two manufacturing associations tied in with us,” the New England Spring and Metalstamping Association and Connecticut Tooling and Machining Association, she said. “That makes us fully aware of what’s happening in the manufacturing sector.”

AEDAC provides opportunities for young people to learn a trade in an area where there is an aging work force, said John Dellalana, Rowley president. “This is such a rare collaboration where you get



Adult Ed Collaboration

Susan Corica | Staff
John Dellalana, Rowley Spring and Stamping president, talks about the latest round of the Adult Education Diploma and Certificate collaboration between Rowley and Bristol Adult Education, as Larry Covino, Adult Education director, listens.

the manufacturers, and the Department of Labor, and the city and the local community foundation to all pitch in together for what we think is a very worthy cause.”

“We’re going to change lives, transform futures, and enable people to have new careers, all with a relatively modest investment,” said Sen. Richard Blumenthal, who added that he planned to tell his colleagues in Washington, D.C. about the program.

Susan Sadecki, president/CEO of the Main Street Community Foundation, said the foundation’s contribution came from two of its funds: a discretionary leadership fund called Money In Motion and a donor advised fund called the Tim and Mary Walsh Charitable Fund.

“Tim and Mary are very invested in these type of workforce development initiatives that give people the opportunity to gain the skills they need to lead successful lives, take care of themselves, take care of their families,” Sadecki said. “So when we said there was round two coming around Tim stepped up and said ‘yes I will recommend a grant through my fund for this initiative.’”

Covino said the first cohort of eight AEDAC students graduated in December of 2014. The second cohort of six graduated in the spring of 2015. In the fall of 2015, eight students graduated in a new bank teller section of the program, in collaboration with Thomaston Savings Bank. The next cohort of about 15 is expected to graduate this spring.

He said he hopes to have another bank teller group soon and there is a possibility for the program to add a health care section in the future.

AEDAC teaches manufacturing fundamentals. In the classroom, students learn measuring, blueprint reading and other essential skills, as well as “soft skills” including basic concepts such as the importance of arriving to work on time and focusing on the task at hand. They also receive hands-on training within a manufacturing environment on the types of machines they will encounter in the field.

Anyone interested in applying for the program can contact Larry Covino at 860-584-7865.

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