

9.C.3 Consideration of MATC Application as an Eligible Training Provider for CNC Applications Certificate Program – (Action)

Department of Workforce Development (DWD) regulations (DWD/DWS Workforce Programs Guide, Part 2 – Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Program Guide, Section I.2.A.1) allow Wisconsin technical colleges, University of Wisconsin campuses, and other educational institutions that receive funding from Title IV of the Higher Education Act are eligible to be designated as an Eligible Training Provider (ETP). WIA Regulations 663.515(a) say in order to be considered eligible, a training agency must submit an application to “local board(s) for the local area(s) in which the provider desires to provide training services.” In addition, the training agency must provide a description for each program of training it desires to have certified. A training institution who meets all required criteria must be included on the local list.

The AFL/CIO had a client who wanted to take the CNC Applications Certificate Program at MATC in Madison. The CNC Applications Certificate Program is “short-term” (18-weeks in length) and designed for experienced machinists (those with a minimum of 4,000 hours of industrial machining experience) who need CNC specific skills. The program was offered as a “pilot” this past Spring with outstanding outcomes. Ten of the 15 students enrolled completed the training and all 10 were employed prior to program completion. The program is not eligible for financial aid because it is a “short-term” certificate program.

Staff recently learned that after the client in question spoke with the MATC CNC instructor, he did not feel he possessed the skills necessary to successfully complete this course.

Currently, neither of the local technical colleges offers a program like the CNC Applications Certificate Program. CNC-related training program available from the Southwest Wisconsin Technical College (SWTC) and Blackhawk Technical College (BTC) include:

- Southwest Technical College offers a Machine Tool Diploma Program which is 9 months in duration. This program trains individuals to operate engine lathes, milling machines, drill presses, precision grinders, and CNC equipment in addition to course work in metallurgy, heat treating, sharpening, using hand tools, reading blueprints and performing precision measuring. There is no previous machining experience required to enroll in this program.
- Blackhawk Technical College offers a 2 year technical diploma program in CNC Technician. This program was developed using National Institute for Metalworking Standards (NIMS) and National Tooling and Machining Association Standards. Using the CNC/CAM software and equipment, students learn to select proper tools and fixtures required to machine parts. Graduates will be proficient in metal machining operations and planning procedures, demonstrating practical machining techniques in accordance with engineering drawing specifications. There is no previous machining experience required to enroll in this program.

ENCLOSURE 9

The CNC Applications Certificate Program is not included on the DWD list of approved training programs. Since this program is currently not listed on the Eligible Training Provider list, SWWDB can not approve an individual to participate in this program.

MATC subsequently requested SWWDB approval of the program. The request has come to SWWDB because it had the first client requesting admission to the program. If SWWDB approves the MATC ETP application for the CNC Applications Certificate Program, the program will be placed on the DWD approved program list. Once on the approved program list, local WDBs may fund clients to participate in the program. If SWWDB does not approve the program, another WDB may consider and approve the application. When approved by another WDB, the program will be added to the State's approved program list and SWWDB could then pay tuition and fees for individuals interested in enrolling in the program.

Board members were asked their opinion on whether to approve or disapprove listing this program on the State ETP list. Two Board members voted to deny and 1 member would not vote until a decision was made on whether a similar program could be developed through Blackhawk Technical College. Seven members voted to approve the program.

Action on the MATC ETP Application for the CNC Applications Certificate Program is requested.