

2020 VIRTUAL TOUR OF MANUFACTURING

FEATURING **14**
MANUFACTURING
FACILITIES

1 HIGHER EDUCATION
LOCATION

Virtual tours and content
available throughout
the month of October at
www.tourofmanufacturing.com

FREE
AND OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC

Photo courtesy of Zierke Built Manufacturing





INSPIRED TO MANUFACTURE SUCCESS

Eide Bailly is proud to support our local manufacturers in the South Central Tour of Manufacturing. As a top 25 CPA firm in the nation, we've been helping manufacturers reach their goals through services that go well beyond traditional tax and audit. Whether you're updating your technology, filing for R&D tax credits or planning for succession, we can help you make confident business decisions and keep our local economy growing strong.



CPAs & BUSINESS ADVISORS

What inspires you, inspires us.

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Tour of Manufacturing

of South Central Minnesota

tourofmanufacturing.com

Sponsored by:



CPAs & BUSINESS ADVISORS

Welcome to the Tour of Manufacturing

In celebration of manufacturing in South Central Minnesota, we are excited to showcase manufacturers each October during the South Central Tour of Manufacturing. Manufacturers across the region have historically opened their doors to showcase their facilities, products, machines, and the variety of opportunities in their in-demand and high paying sector. This year, our partnership has been more determined than ever to continue this celebration of manufacturing, made up largely of essential employers, for all that they have done, and continue to do, to support our region as we navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to social distancing and safety concerns, our partnership has looked within to create a virtual tour, aiming to continue the spirit of lifting the veil on the creative work being done in our own backyards.

Participants in this year's tour can look forward to accessing information about each contributing manufacturer through this publication, including career opportunities, and links to virtual tours, allowing you to experience a peek into what is happening inside the walls of the buildings you drive by every day. Students, job seekers, and those who are just curious, can experience the tours, and then have fun completing online activities and games created for you by our team of educators. This tour is a great opportunity for both high school students exploring careers, as well as, current job seekers looking to advance their skillset or make a career change.

Manufacturing employers are hiring and are excited to show the variety of careers they offer: finance, production, marketing, IT, and more. Manufacturing isn't just assembly—it's innovative and high-tech, in-demand and secure, clean and safe, and offers a wage much higher than the regional average.

We would like to thank our participating manufacturers for opening their doors and sharing their story, Eide Bailly for their generous sponsorship and continued investment in this tour, and all of you for participating in this great event year after year.

— *South Central Tour of Manufacturing Partnership*

South Central Tour of Manufacturing Partnership:

City of Blue Earth/Faribault County

City of Fairmont

City of Le Sueur

Eide Bailly

Greater Mankato Growth

Mankato Free Press

Mankato Public Schools

MN Dept. of Employment & Economic Development

MN State Engineering Center of Excellence

New Ulm Chamber of Commerce

South Central College

South Central Service Cooperative

South Central WorkForce Council

Waseca Chamber of Commerce

The manufacturing industry is a significant contributor to the South Central Minnesota regional economy. According to DEED's Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data, the 9-county South Central Region (region 9) was home to 338 manufacturing establishments providing 29,005 jobs on average in 2019. That was 5.9 percent of total manufacturing employment in the state. Manufacturing accounted for 17.9 percent of the total employment, making it the largest industry sector in the region. South Central has the fourth largest concentration of manufacturing employment of the 13 regions in the state.

These manufacturers provided about \$1 billion in total payroll in 2018, making it the largest industry in terms of payroll. Average weekly wages in manufacturing were \$1,036 in 2019, which was 22 percent higher than the average across all industries. (See table 1)

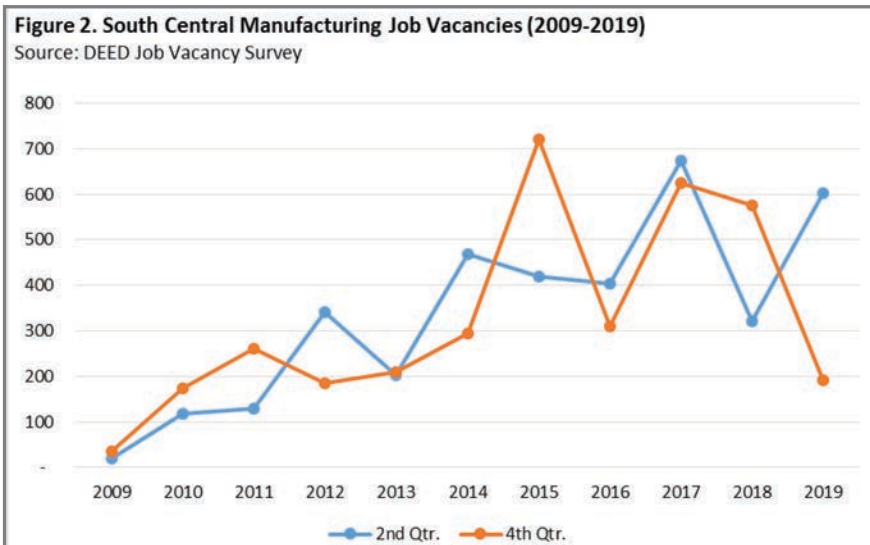
Table 1. South Central Minnesota Manufacturing Industry Employment Statistics (2019 Annual Averages)

NAICS Code	Industry Title	Number of Jobs	Number of Firms	Total Payroll	Average Weekly Wage
0	Total, All Industries	106,072	6773	\$4,684,718,522	\$849
31	Manufacturing	19,005	338	\$1,024,455,156	\$1,036
311	Food Manufacturing	5,861	54	\$323,635,676	\$1,062
323	Printing and Related Support Activities	2,637	37	\$114,256,173	\$835
335	Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing	1,972	18	\$116,453,105	\$1,135
327	Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	1,356	16	\$87,403,377	\$1,240
334	Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing	1,291	13	\$73,393,903	\$1,093
332	Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	1,287	57	\$66,988,133	\$1,000
333	Machinery Manufacturing	911	36	\$47,102,385	\$995
326	Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing	778	16	\$38,613,721	\$954
336	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	758	13	\$39,888,962	\$1,012
325	Chemical Manufacturing	532	13	\$34,660,050	\$1,258
339	Miscellaneous Manufacturing	525	24	\$27,294,687	\$999
312	Beverage and Tobacco Product Manufacturing	338	9	\$13,599,889	\$777

Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

OCCUPATIONAL DEMAND

With the increase in manufacturing jobs over the last 10 years, it is not surprising that the number of job vacancies in manufacturing have, in general, also seen an increase. However, most recent estimates for 2019 show that there were only 192 job vacancies in manufacturing in the 4th quarter of 2019, much lower than the peak seen in the 4th quarter of 2015 when there were 722 job openings. Overall though, the number of manufacturing job vacancies have increased regardless of which quarter is looked at – there were 583 more jobs in the 2nd quarter of 2019 compared to that quarter in 2009, and 157 more vacancies in the 4th quarter of 2019 compared to the 4th quarter of 2009. See Figure 2.



OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

DEED's Occupational Employment Statistics program provides detailed employment and wage data for a wide range of occupations involved in manufacturing. In sum, there were an estimated 13,410 people working in production occupations in the South Central Minnesota, accounting for about 13.5 percent of the total regional employment averaging \$18.47 an hour.

In addition to production occupations, manufacturers also require the services of workers in several other occupational groups, such as office and administrative support, transportation and material moving, architecture and engineering, management, and installation, maintenance and repair, sales, business and financial operations, and computer and mathematical. Not surprisingly, wages were higher for the higher level positions such as management, computer and mathematical, architecture and engineering, and business and financial operations, all of which pay over \$30.00 an hour. (See table 3)

Table 3. South Central Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics - 1st Qtr. 2019

Occupation	South Central		Minnesota	
	Employment	Median Hourly Wage	Employment	Median Hourly Wage
Total, All Occupations	99,570	\$18.75	2,880,650	\$21.49
Production	13,410	\$18.47	212,650	\$19.03
Office & Administrative Support	12,350	\$18.56	363,800	\$20.03
Transportation & Material Moving	9,390	\$18.21	216,890	\$18.06
Architecture & Engineering	1,970	\$32.36	55,520	\$38.00
Management	5,080	\$41.62	170,650	\$52.70
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	3,930	\$22.51	100,060	\$24.31
Sales & Related	9,610	\$14.28	277,000	\$15.37
Business & Financial Operations	3,560	\$29.25	171,550	\$33.87
Computer & Mathematical	1,520	\$29.96	97,960	\$42.71
Source: DEED Occupational Employment Statistics				

Packaging and filling machine operators, miscellaneous assemblers and fabricators, supervisors of production and operating workers, inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers and weighers and printing press operators are among the top five highest employing manufacturing occupations in the region. Combined, these five occupations make up 31.8 percent of all production employment in South Central Minnesota. Median hourly wages for all production jobs in the region rests at \$18.47 per hour, but ranges from \$12.24 for laundry and dry-cleaning workers to \$46.59 for industrial production managers.

Almost all of these manufacturing occupations can be gained with a high school diploma (or equivalent), however there are two occupations that require some vocational training, including machinists and tool and die makers, and industrial production managers requires a Bachelor's degree. See table 6.

Regardless of educational requirements, on-the-job training, which DEED's Occupations in Demand data refers to as the "most common training needed by most workers to become fully qualified to work in an occupation", appears to be the critical element for most of these production occupations. All but three of the top 30 employing manufacturing occupations, supervisors of production and operating workers, industrial production managers, and prepress technicians and workers, requires some sort of on-the-job training. The training ranges from short-term (less than one month) to moderate-term (greater than one month but less than 12 months) to long-term (greater than 12 months) on-the-job training. See table 4.

Table 4. South Central Minnesota Top 30 Manufacturing Occupations (Qtr. 1 2020)				
Occupation	Estimated Regional Employment	Median Hourly Wage	Minnesota Education Requirements	On-the-Job Training Requirements
Total, All Occupations	99,570	\$18.75	N/A	N/A
Production Occupations	13,410	\$18.47	N/A	N/A
Packaging & Filling Machine Operators	1,180	\$17.18	High School	Moderate-Term
Miscellaneous Assemblers & Fabricators	1,140	\$15.67	High School	N/A
Supervisors of Production & Operating Workers	820	\$29.39	High School	None
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, & Weighers	600	\$18.01	High School	Moderate-Term
Printing Press Operators	520	\$18.77	High School	Moderate-Term
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	510	\$18.99	High School	Moderate-Term
Machinists	400	\$22.78	Vocational	Long-Term
Electrical, electronic, & electromechanical assemblers	390	\$15.78	High School	N/A
Food Batchmakers	380	\$15.49	High School	Moderate-Term
Helpers--Production Workers	370	\$15.54	High School	Short-Term
Production Workers, All Other	310	\$16.82	High School	N/A
Separating, Filtering, Clarifying, Precipitating, & Still Machine Operators	310	\$21.97	High School	Moderate-Term
Industrial Production Managers	270	\$46.59	Bachelor's	None
Mixing & Blending Machine Operators,	220	\$21.68	High School	Moderate-Term
Water & Wastewater Treatment Plant & System Operators	220	\$25.89	High School	Long-Term
Crushing, Grinding, & Polishing Machine Operators	200	\$22.61	High School	Moderate-Term
Cutting, Punching, & Press Machine Operators	190	\$18.49	High School	Moderate-Term
Molding, Coremaking, & Casting Machine Operators	130	\$20.53	High School	Moderate-Term
Prepress Technicians & Workers	130	\$24.45	High School	None
Cutting & Slicing Machine Operators	130	\$20.07	High School	Short-Term
Extruding, Forming, Pressing, & Compacting Machine Operators	120	\$18.49	High School	Moderate-Term
Butchers & Meat Cutters	110	\$14.76	High School	Long-Term
Stationary Engineers & Boiler Operators	110	\$28.55	High School	Long-Term
Coating, Painting, & Spraying Machine Operators	90	\$17.07	High School	N/A
Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operators	80	\$18.11	High School	N/A
Tool & Die Makers	70	\$26.86	Vocational	Long-Term
Source: DEED Occupational Employment Statistics, Minn. Educational Requirements for Occupations and Occupations in Demand				

SUMMARY:

Manufacturing in South Central Minnesota makes up 5.9 percent of the total manufacturing jobs in the state, with 19,005 jobs at 338 employing firms, while also making up 17.9 percent of the total jobs in the region. Over the last decade, the number of manufacturing jobs has increased by 0.7 percent after experiencing some ups and downs over the years, equaling an increase of 127 jobs from 2009 to 2019. Demand for manufacturing jobs is evident when looking at job vacancy data, which shows that the number of manufacturing job openings has, overall, increased in the region, as has the median wage offer for these openings. While post-secondary education is required for some of these openings, one or more years of experience appears to be a more sought after requirement. There were an estimated 13,410 people employed in production occupations, making up 13.5 percent of the total regional employment, with a median hourly wage of \$18.47. Many of these occupations require just a high school diploma, however most require some degree of on-the-job training. The region's manufacturing employment is projected to see a 2.7 percent decrease from 2016 to 2026, equaling a loss of 526 positions. However there are projected to be the need to fill over 7,800 manufacturing job openings due to labor force exits.



**719 North Main St
Le Sueur**
507.665.3353
agropurcareers.us
agropur.com
biprousa.com

VIRTUAL TOUR VIDEO LINK:

www.tourofmanufacturing.com

VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR:

Monday, October 12, 10:30am to 11:30am

Register here:

<https://www.careerforcemn.com/events/530949/virtual-career-fair>

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE:

agropurcareers.us



EMPLOYMENT

Founded in 1938, Agropur is a top 20 global dairy producer with sales of \$5.5 billion USD in 2019. As North America's largest whey protein manufacturer and producer of over 800MM lbs of quality, award-winning, rBST Free cheese per year, Agropur's 10 US, SQF Certified plants are behind some of the

most prominent food, beverage and nutrition brands in the industry. Vertically integrated by design, Agropur provides future-forward solutions in the areas of cheese, ingredients, beverages and custom contract manufacturing services. Agropur is proud of its 8,800 employees who work together in pursuit of its

vision every day: "Better dairy. Better world." Agropur employees about 340 people on their Le Sueur campus which includes the Le Sueur Cheese plant, Le Sueur Food Ingredient plant, the Friendly Confines Cheese Shoppe, Protein Research Center and our Business Office.





**200 N Riverfront Dr
Mankato**
507.388.1679
ArdentMills.com



EMPLOYMENT

The Ardent Mills Mankato flour mill has been operating along the Minnesota River since 1878. Founded by R.D. Hubbard, George M. Palmer and William Pearson as the Mankato Mill Company, this cornerstone of the community has continued to produce high-quality flour through a small handful of owners and name changes.

In 2014, Mankato mill owners Horizon Milling (a joint venture between Cargill and CHS) merged with the ConAgra flour milling division to form Ardent Mills, LLC. This joint venture fostered the growth of a network of sister facilities and created the largest flour-milling and ingredient company in North America.

Today, 40 full-time employees keep the Mankato mill running around the clock, shipping

truckloads of flour throughout the Upper Midwest and beyond.

Ardent Mills' values of *trust, serving, simplicity, and safety* are at the very core of every discussion and decision made each day. This foundation in their values allows each team member the chance to flourish and *win the right way*.

Check out Ardent Mills careers opportunities today at www.ardentmillscareers.com!



QUICK FACTS

- Organic certified
- Can produce 740,000 pounds of white flour and 215,000 pounds of whole wheat flour daily
- In 2020, Australian artist Guido van Helten completed massive mural on grain elevator
- Ardent Mills is headquartered in Denver, CO and has production facilities throughout the U.S., Canada, and Puerto Rico.





C A M B R I A®

**31496 Cambria Ave
Le Sueur
507.665.5003
cambriaUSA.com**

VIRTUAL TOUR VIDEO LINK:

www.tourofmanufacturing.com

VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR:

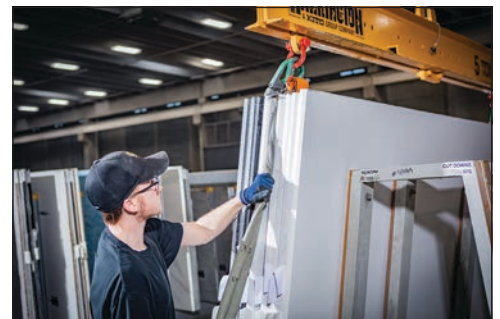
Virtual Career Fair: Monday, October 12, 10:30am to 11:30am

Register here:

<https://www.careerforcemn.com/events/530949/virtual-career-fair>

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE:

cambriaUSA.com



EMPLOYMENT

Cambria is the first and only family-owned, American-made producer of natural stone surfaces. Established in 2001, Cambria was built on 70+ years of manufacturing experience in Minnesota. Cambria employs more than 2,000 in the U.S. and Canada, including nearly 600 skilled craftsmen and women at the company's nearly 1 million square foot manufacturing facility.

Their employees take great pride in their work and the company's reputation for quality, exceptional craftsmanship, and beauty. There's never any skimping or cutting corners. Every natural stone surface they create is crafted with hands-on attention down to the smallest details to provide years of flawless performance.

They strongly believe that the best countertops

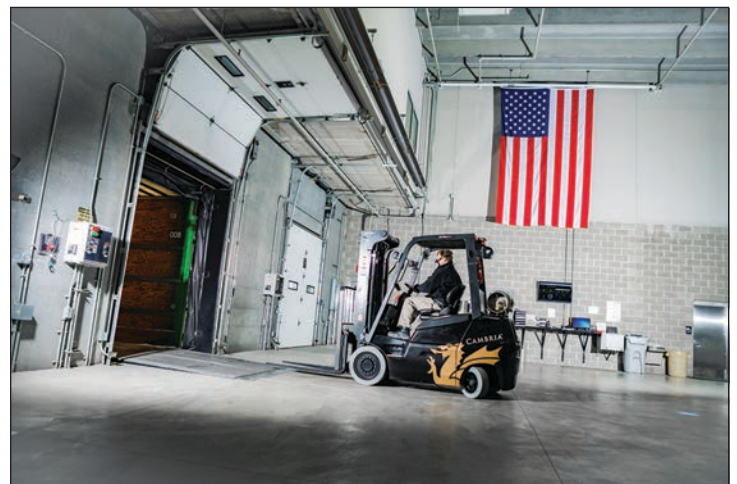
start with the best people. Cambria employees take charge of their career by working for a progressive company where innovation inspires people to grow and reach their full potential. Every job at Cambria is important and great ideas can come from anyone at any time.

Cambria offers competitive benefits, including health insurance, life insurance, profit sharing and 401K with employer match.

CambriaUSA.com/Careers.
#WeAreCambria

QUICK FACTS:

- State-of-the-art-facility
- Family owned company
- Competitive wages + benefits, profit sharing, 401K match
- Unlimited career paths
- Opportunities in: Production, Warehouse, Maintenance, Automation, Engineering





**407 7th Street NW
New Prague
952.758.8180
chartindustries.com**

VIRTUAL TOUR VIDEO LINK:

www.tourofmanufacturing.com

VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR:

Virtual Career Fair: Monday, October 12, 10:30am to 11:30am

Register here:

<https://www.careerforcemn.com/events/530949/virtual-career-fair>

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE:

chartindustries.com

EMPLOYMENT

Chart Industries, Inc. is a leading independent global manufacturer of highly engineered equipment servicing multiple

applications in the Energy and Industrial Gas markets. Our unique product portfolio is used in every phase of the liquid gas supply chain, including upfront

engineering, service and repair.

Being at the forefront of the clean energy transition, Chart is a leading provider of technology, equipment

and services related to liquefied natural gas, hydrogen, biogas and CO2 Capture amongst other applications. We are committed to excellence in environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) issues both for our company as well as our customers. With over 25 global locations from the United States to Asia, Australia, India, Europe and South America, we maintain accountability and transparency to our team members, suppliers, customers and communities.

Some of the roles the New Prague Facility has open include:

- Mig & Tig Welders
- General Laborers
- Product Engineers
- Quality Engineer
- System Proposal Support Engineer





**299 Johnson Ave SW
Suite 100
Waseca
507.833.8822
belfuse.com/cinch**

VIRTUAL TOUR VIDEO LINK:

www.tourofmanufacturing.com

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE:

belfuse.com/cinch



EMPLOYMENT

Cinch Connectivity Solutions is a vertically integrated supplier of high quality, high performance connectors, fixed length and semi rigid cable assemblies from DC to 50 GHz, and custom solutions. Their product lines deliver custom-engineered solutions to satisfy the most demanding and complex requirements. Cinch Connectivity's products support aerospace, military, wireless communications, data networking, test and measurement, telecommunications, broadcast, medical, oil and gas and other harsh environment applications. Combined with the strength of our parent company, Bel Fuse Inc., Cinch Connectivity Solutions aims to provide an unparalleled offering to the vast array of industries they serve.

WHY WORK HERE

Cinch Connectivity Solutions offers career opportunities in the Engineering, Finance, IT, HR, Customer Service, Procurement and Production areas such as Machining, Plating, Quality, Warehouse and Assembly. They also offer Job Shadow and a paid CNC Machinist Apprenticeship Program.

QUICK FACTS

- The Waseca business has been an active employer in the Waseca community for over 75 years. Once part of the original E.F. Johnson business, E.F. Johnson began manufacturing radio components in 1923, becoming well-known 20 years later for its radios installed inside WWII military vehicles.
- After a series of acquisitions, the business was eventually sold

to Bel Fuse, the parent company of Cinch Connectivity Solutions. Bel Fuse is a headquartered in Jersey City, NJ with a global footprint which covers the Americas, Europe and Asia.

- The Waseca plant is a vertically integrated facility that employs 220 associates.
- They have the capability of providing design solutions to customers for unique operational challenges in a global environment.
- Machine Shop tolerances include 100th thickness of a human hair. Their machining capabilities also include a high precision turning



machine capable of machining down to 1 micron. This machine is one of only two that exist in the world.

- They are proud to be a member of the Waseca Chamber of Commerce, and annually provide assistance to the community in the form of charitable giving, scholarships and employee volunteers.



**618 6th St NW
New Prague
651.356.8593
cvfracing.com**

VIRTUAL TOUR VIDEO LINK:

www.tourofmanufacturing.com

PANEL DISCUSSION:

www.tourofmanufacturing.com

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE:

cvfracing.com



EMPLOYMENT

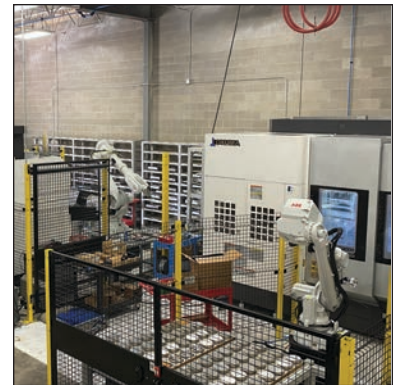
CVF Racing was started in 2009 by a classic car nut and corporate engineer with a single vision: Provide premium products at an affordable price by selling direct to car enthusiasts and doing so with best in class customer service. Today they are proud to offer one of the most complete selections of Serpentine &

V-Belt accessory drives and billet hood hinges in the world.

CVF is a vertically integrated company with a very flat organizational structure which provides a great opportunity to learn and grow with lots of hands on experience and responsibility. Operating out of a 50,000 sq ft climate-controlled facility in New

Prague they offer exciting career opportunities in Engineering, Sales, Machining, Accounting and Production/Warehousing.

CVF offers Competitive Compensation, Health Insurance, Dental and Vision Insurance, Retirement Savings Plan with Company Match, PTO & Paid Holidays.





**2240 Howard Drive W
North Mankato
507.388.4100
dkpowdercoating.com**

VIRTUAL TOUR VIDEO LINK:

www.tourofmanufacturing.com

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE:

dkpowdercoating.com



EMPLOYMENT

D&K Powder Coating is an ISO 9001-2015 certified-and-registered powder coating company offering complete powder coating services to its dedicated and loyal customers. D&K operates out of a 47,000 square foot facility with state-of-the-art equipment which can accommodate parts up to 16' wide, 12' high and 45' long in a custom-built Col-Met Batch Oven. D&K features a Col-Met Paint Booth and GEMA paint application systems. Their steel grit media blast booth can accommodate parts up to 20' wide, 14' high, and 51' long. The company recently acquired the lot to the East of their current building to expand on their capabilities.

D&K Powder Coating bases its business model and strategic plan on being a provider of custom paint applications

ranging from one-piece runs to production-level requirements. They aspire to provide their customers quality products that meet and exceed the established standards set forth by customers, suppliers, and regulatory guidelines.

D&K Powder Coating's mission is to deliver a finish of the highest quality possible, at a competitive price, on time.

HISTORY:

D&K Powder Coating was founded in 2013 by Dana and Kathy Schnepf. The company was originally located at 1415 First Avenue in Mankato, MN. In 2015, D&K Powder Coating moved to its current location at 2240 Howard Drive West in North Mankato, MN.

COMMUNITY/ STATE ROLE:

D&K Powder Coating offers its services to the

Mankato community and Midwest. They proudly sponsored the 2019 Mankato Air Spectacular, supported local fire departments, and donated to the Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota.

PRODUCTS/ SERVICES OFFERED:

D&K Powder Coating offers complete powder coating and media blasting services.

OF EMPLOYEES:

D&K Powder Coating currently employs 57 people.

TYPES OF CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

D&K Powder Coating offers a variety of positions such as: Powder Painter, Blaster, Washer, Shipping, Receiving, Packaging, Oven Operator, and Production.





**304 Main Street
Winnebago**
888.288.9383
everidge.com

VIRTUAL TOUR VIDEO LINK:

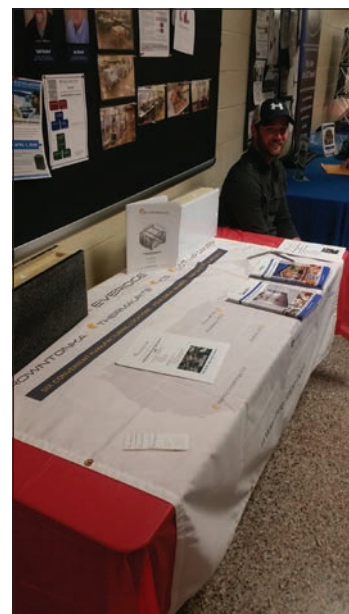
www.tourofmanufacturing.com

PANEL DISCUSSION:

www.tourofmanufacturing.com

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE:

everidge.com



EMPLOYMENT

Everidge is the nation's premier commercial refrigerated services and cook-chill specialty solutions provider. Headquartered in Plymouth, MN with operations and manufacturing facilities in Winnebago, MN, Rancho Cucamonga, CA, Andover, KS, Coveseville, VA and Greeneville, TN, Everidge has nearly 600 employees worldwide. Their family of brands include CrownTonka, ThermalRite, International Cold Storage and LoTemp Doors. For more information, visit www.everidge.com.

The Minnesota manufacturing center has been in operations for over 30 years. Located directly on Highway 169 in Winnebago, the facility offers convenient access for vendors, clients, distribution and employees.





Leadership from Legacy

**3201 3rd Avenue
Mankato
507.625.4436
jonesmetalinc.com**

VIRTUAL TOUR VIDEO LINK:

www.tourofmanufacturing.com

PANEL DISCUSSION:

www.tourofmanufacturing.com

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE:

jonesmetalinc.com



EMPLOYMENT

Since 1942 Jones Metal has been known for custom, precision metal fabrication a legacy the Jones team is very proud of. Committed to building on that legacy Jones Metal leads the industry with team expertise, precision manufacturing processes, technology and services to deliver the highest quality custom fabrication for the best total value.

Mildred Jones established the company with strong values and an innovative spirit that is built to last.

76+ years later Jones Metal is a 3rd generation WBE certified woman owned company. Jones Metal also holds the most recent ISO 9001:2015 registration.

Jones Metal provides

advanced, precision metal fabrication solutions for original equipment manufacturers in various industries, including power generation, nuclear power generation, renewable energy, agricultural, heavy construction, mining, transportation, food, and the US Military. **Jones Metal supports world-class innovation.**

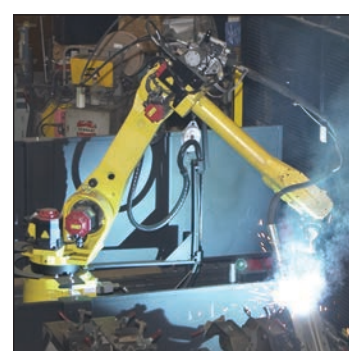
Whether the project is in the idea stage or is fully developed with a full-print specification, the engineers at Jones Metal use the latest solid modeling and

machine-utilization software to ensure each project is optimally designed for Jones Metal's high-tech manufacturing processes. The design for manufacture method integrates quality specifications, shortens production time, reduces waste, and minimizes costs.

Who do they hire? Jones Metal is always looking for the "best manufacturing athletes" says CEO, Sarah Richards, "we want women and men with the best attitude and aptitude, we will train them from that point. Once trained, they

are regarded as world-class metal fabricators."

One of Jones' newest welders commented, "I have been waiting for this opportunity, when I moved to the area and asked about fabrication companies, I was told that the best was Jones Metal that they were hard to get into but a great place to work. I am so glad I got in, I love to weld and run machines like robots laser cutters, this is going to be good."





**808 Timberlake Road
Fairmont
507.235.6648
kahlerautomation.com**

VIRTUAL TOUR VIDEO LINK:

www.tourofmanufacturing.com

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE:

kahlerautomation.com



EMPLOYMENT

Kahler Automation traces its lineage back to 1949 when Fairmont native Roy Kahler started Kahler Electric. Eventually his son Wayne created an “automation division” within the company to serve the area’s farming community, doing programmable logic controller work with hog facilities and barn ventilation controls. In the late ‘80s Kahler developed its first Fluid Dispensing System, utilizing weigh tanks to measure chemicals and dispense them into mini-bulk containers; its tremendous success soon spurred the formation of Kahler Automation. Having outgrown their original location on Winnebago Avenue, they’ve been at their 36,000 sq. ft. facility in Fairmont’s Industrial Park since 2007.

Now an industry leader in agricultural and industrial

bulk material handling, Kahler continues to develop innovative products and expand into new markets, partnering with farmers cooperatives, chemical and fertilizer manufacturers, agronomy service providers, transportation businesses, equipment manufacturers, construction companies, and producers of food, fiber, and fuel. Kahler’s hardware and software systems measure, blend, and track bulk products around the world, and its panels proudly bear the UL mark of a high-quality panel manufacturer. In addition to dry & liquid bulk material handling of all sorts, Kahler’s truck traffic control technology offers integrated system for site access, vehicle management, and traffic flow for any kind of facility.

Grown from strong ag roots, Kahler has become a global player in



industrial automation while supporting the families and communities of 75 employees in southern Minnesota. Careers at Kahler Automation include Electrical Engineer, Software Engineer, Electrical Technician, CAD Specialist, Field Technician, Technical Support, Mechanical Assembly, Sales Management, and Project Coordinator, plus opportunities in Finance, Marketing, Training, Inside Sales, and more. Education

paths taken by Kahler employees include both four-year degrees — such as computer engineering, electrical engineering, business, etc. — and two-year degrees — commercial wiring, computer aided drafting & design, and industrial instrumentation, among many others.

MICHAEL FOODS INC.

**120 Tower Street
Gaylord**
507.237.4600
michaelfoods.com

VIRTUAL TOUR VIDEO LINK:

www.tourofmanufacturing.com

VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR:

Monday, October 5, 2020,

View Recording here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oiX872gPtAs>

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE:

michaelfoods.com



EMPLOYMENT

Michael Foods has plants across the US that manufacture egg, potato and sausage products for restaurants and cafeterias as well as retail grocery. Our flagship facilities are located in Gaylord and are critical to our value-added egg portfolio, manufacturing everything from liquid and hard cooked eggs to fully cooked patties and omelets. Within the

Gaylord community, we are very proud of our track record as an employer who creates career opportunities for its employees with the wages and benefits needed to create better lives for themselves and their families. Additionally, we actively participate in community events from parades to food drives and donations - including local food kit giveaways during the COVID-19 pandemic.





South Central COLLEGE

**1920 Lee Blvd
North Mankato**
507.389.7200
**[southcentral.edu/
manufacturing](http://southcentral.edu/manufacturing)**

VIRTUAL TOUR VIDEO LINK:

www.tourofmanufacturing.com

VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR:

Monday, October 12, 10:30am to 11:30am

Register here:

<https://www.careerforcemn.com/events/530949/virtual-career-fair>

PANEL DISCUSSION:

www.tourofmanufacturing.com



WHY MANUFACTURING?

In 2017, the average annual wage for those working in manufacturing in Minnesota was \$65,728. That's 17 percent higher than the average wage in other industries. However you fit into the world of manufacturing, you'll know you have a future in this high growth, high demand career field.

WHY SOUTH CENTRAL COLLEGE?

Today's sophisticated manufacturing environment calls for individuals with an advanced technical education. South Central College (SCC) offers programs in machine tool technology, mechatronics and welding. All these programs provide students an opportunity to earn industry-recognized credentials, which lets

employers know SCC graduates have the knowledge necessary to work in today's high tech manufacturing world. With a variety of certificate, diploma and associate degree options, students can also decide how long they want to go to college and can take their education in stages based on their career goals.

In addition, students can start their career in advanced manufacturing while completing their college degree. SCC's *Learn Work Earn* program lets students work part-time for an area manufacturer while going to school. On-the-job training is combined with traditional classroom instruction, allowing students to master their technical skills, gain experience in the field and earn wages to offset the cost of their education.



- South Central College has been offering advanced manufacturing education since the college's inception in 1946.
- The number of individuals employed in manufacturing in Minnesota has grown every year since 2010, with the overall number of manufacturing employees increasing by 9% from 2010 - 2019.

- Since 2010 the average hourly wage for those working in manufacturing in Minnesota has grown from \$24.68 to \$28.68, a 14% increase.

For advanced manufacturing professionals who want to update their skills, South Central College's Center for Business and Industry provides education in various area.



**751 Summit Avenue
Mankato
507.387.2039
vtekusa.com**

VIRTUAL TOUR VIDEO LINK:

www.tourofmanufacturing.com

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE:

vtekusa.com



EMPLOYMENT

V-TEK, Inc. was founded in Mankato in 1985 as a two-person operation packaging electronic components and equipment. V-TEK, Inc. then expanded operations to include the design and manufacturing of packing and taping equipment as well as automated machinery for packing, placing, and testing of electronic components.

In 2013, V-TEK, Inc. acquired Royce Instruments, adding the ability for the V-TEK, Inc. to manufacture bond testing and die sorting equipment. This allows V-TEK, Inc. stands as a global leader in designing precision assembly tools and testing equipment for the semiconductor industry.

In 2017, V-TEK, Inc. was acquired by the KODA Enterprises Group, an investment firm that helps V-TEK, Inc. with financial and operational support.

Now V-TEK, Inc. employs almost 60 people between the V-TEK, Inc. Mankato plant and the Royce Instruments plant in Napa, California. V-TEK, Inc. equipment and services are used in various industries such as electronics, automotive, aerospace, medical, entertainment, micro-molding, and micro-stamping industries.

INTERESTING FACTS:

- V-TEK, Inc. started in a small leased warehouse near the Mankato Airport. One year later, a building was purchased in Lake Crystal. The current headquarter facility was built in 1993 and has been the headquarters since.
- V-TEK, Inc. can build, program, and ship an entire automated machine from scratch in two weeks.

- V-TEK, Inc. works closely with the Mechatronics Program at South Central College, providing students employment through the Pipeline Program.
- V-TEK has invested in the construction of a Class 10,000 Clean Room to work with customer components that require a highly controlled level of contamination.





835 MN-109
Wells
507.553.3138
wellsconcrete.com



EMPLOYMENT

Wells Concrete is the largest precast producer in the upper Midwest and one of the top five precast providers in the U.S. Wells designs, manufactures, and installs architectural and structural precast concrete solutions. The company holds itself to a higher standard, offering superior products, impeccable customer service and a better overall value than their competition.

Starting in 1957 as a double tee manufacturer in an open field in the outskirts of Wells, MN, now with four manufacturing plants in the U.S., Wells Concrete can provide innovative, efficient, and cost-effective solutions to its customer's design-build challenges from Canada to New Mexico and Wisconsin to Colorado. Wells is PCI certified in production and field installation, offering

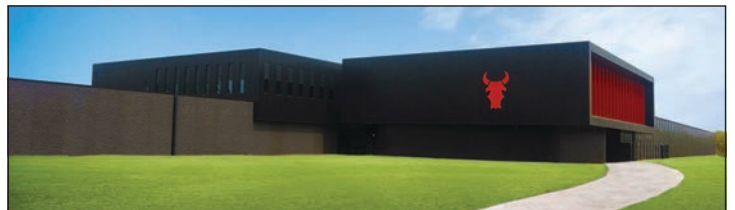
superior service as a project partner.

As the company grew, they expanded their precast operations significantly, and now produce a variety of precast products with architectural finishes and retain a workforce of 900 in over 2 million square feet of enclosed manufacturing space. The manufacturing plant in Wells alone generates two-thirds of the company's overall revenue, produced by crews on site, shipped to the respective project sites, and finally installed by Wells Concrete team members.

Wells Concrete is a team of industry experts working together to bring their customer's vision to life. They offer superior craftsmanship, innovative design-build solutions and advanced production efficiency.

- The Company, Wells Concrete started in 1951, in Wells, MN, as a small concrete drain tile and Ready-Mix operation.
- Wells Concrete currently has four manufacturing locations, Wells, MN; Albany, MN; Rosemount, MN; and Brighton, CO; with over two million square feet of manufacturing space between the four plants.

- The Company is approaching an employee population of 900 employees.
- Core Values: they always conduct business with integrity and trust, deliver what they promise, and are driven to be the best. Their people care and strive to build trusted relationships - internally and externally.





**1500 Winnebago Ave
Fairmont
507.399.2154
zierkebuilt.com**

VIRTUAL TOUR VIDEO LINK:

www.tourofmanufacturing.com

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE:

zierkebuilt.com



EMPLOYMENT

Zierke Built Manufacturing has been providing custom manufactured goods to the world since 1981. The southern Minnesota company has been building products—such as trailers and containment storage—for customers encompassing the United States and Canada, and as far away as Japan.

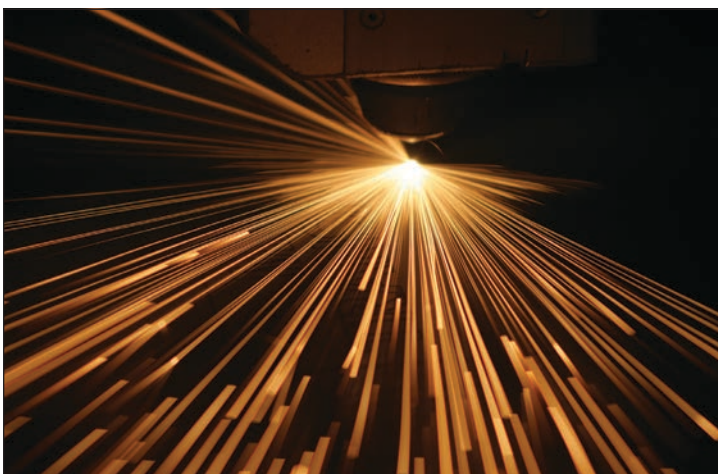
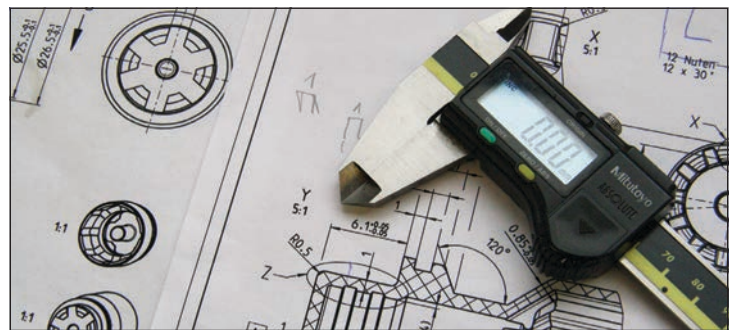
From its humble

beginnings out of a garage in Elmore, MN to its newest and largest facility located not far away in the City of Fairmont, ZBM and its steady expansion has helped the community grow by offering an ever-increasing need for jobs. Just a preview of the current positions filled by over 50 full-time employees include welding, brake press operation, wiring, assembly,

painting and prepping, sales, engineering, and part-time general labor.

FACTS:

- UL & ULC Approved
- ISO 9001:2015 Certified



In Demand Manufacturing Careers

CNC PROGRAMMER AND MACHINIST

WELDERS

EDUCATION



Some operators are trained on basic machine operations and functions in a few months. Other workers, such as computer-controlled machine tool operators, may need up to two years to become trained.

High school diploma or equivalent, combined with technical training and on the job training, welding certificate



IMPORTANT QUALITIES



- High degree of autonomy
- Troubleshooting
- Integrity
- Industrial automation
- Process management
- Data entry

- Detail oriented
- Self-starting / Self-motivated
- Problem solving
- Integrity
- Dependability
- Team player
- Work independently
- Basic computer skills



WHAT THEY DO



Operate programming software to generate computer numerically controlled (CNC) programs used to control CNC machine tools that drill, mill, rout, grind, or notch.

Responsible for assembling structural metal products using tools, welding equipment, and their own hands.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MEDIAN HOURLY WAGES **\$24.55** **\$33.88**^{TO}

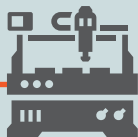
Demand is expected to be strong, as many firms are adopting technologies such as machine tools and robots.

MEDIAN HOURLY WAGES **\$16.59** **\$22.61**^{TO}

Types of welders in demand: arc and gas welding

These jobs are in demand in Southwest and South Central Minnesota and these are SW/SC Minnesota Median wages. Data collected from Department of Employment and Economic Development.

WORK ENVIRONMENT



These workers often operate powerful, high-speed machines. Operators usually wear protective equipment, such as safety glasses, earplugs, and steel-toed boots to protect them from flying particles of metal or plastic, machine noise, and heavy objects.

Welders and cutters may work outdoors, or indoors, sometimes in a confined area designed to contain sparks and glare. Most welders work full time, and overtime is common.



January 2019

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WORKFORCE
COUNCIL**

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In Demand Manufacturing Careers

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING TECHS

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERS

EDUCATION

Most employers prefer to hire candidates with associate's degrees or other postsecondary training in mechanical engineering technology.

Industrial Engineers typically need a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering or mechanical engineering technology.

IMPORTANT QUALITIES

- Project Management
- Work independently
- Manufacturing process
- Problem solving
- Troubleshooting
- Process Improvement
- Risk Management
- Detail oriented
- Creativity

- Project Management
- Problem solving
- Data Analysis
- Product development
- Work independently
- Management skills

WHAT THEY DO

Mechanical engineering technicians help mechanical engineers design, develop, test, and manufacture mechanical devices, including tools, engines, and machines. They may make sketches and rough layouts, record and analyze data, make calculations and estimates, and report their findings

Develops and documents the required parameters for machines and tools used to produce products. Analyze problems to see how mechanical and thermal devices might help solve a particular problem. Investigate equipment failures or difficulties to diagnose faulty operation and to recommend remedies. Analyze the test results and change the design or system as needed. Oversee the manufacturing process for the device

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MEDIAN HOURLY WAGES **\$20.86** **TO** **\$27.37**

Employment of industrial machinery mechanics and machinery maintenance workers is projected to grow 7 percent from 2016 to 2026

These jobs are in demand in Southwest and South Central Minnesota and these are SW/SC Minnesota Median wages. Data collected from Department of Employment and Economic Development.

MEDIAN HOURLY WAGES **\$29.75** **TO** **\$43.13**

Employment of industrial engineers is projected to grow 9 percent from 2016 to 2026.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Mechanical engineering technicians assist with manufacturing processes in factories or with development phases in research and development labs before manufacturing takes place.

Industrial Engineers generally work in offices. They may occasionally visit worksites where a problem or piece of equipment needs their personal attention.



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CAREER PATHS IN MANUFACTURING

IN SW/SC MN

4-YEAR OR MORE COLLEGE DEGREE AND/OR EQUIVALENT EXPERIENCE

Industrial Engineers
\$35.77

Mechanical Engineers
\$36.20

Sales Representatives,
Wholesale and
Manufacturing, Technical
and Scientific Products
\$37.94

1-2 YEAR COLLEGE DEGREE (OR CREDENTIAL)

Machinists
\$18.65

Industrial Machinery
Mechanics
\$22.52

Industrial Engineering
Technicians
\$22.07

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR GED / ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

First-Line Supervisors/
Managers of Production
and Operating Workers
\$27.75

Packaging and Filling
Machine Operators
and Tenders
\$16.34

Welders, Cutters,
Solderers, and Brazers
\$19.38

WHY CHOOSE A CAREER IN MANUFACTURING?

Manufacturing provides just shy of 20 percent of all total employment in the region, making it the largest industry in the region just ahead of health care and social assistance. Southwest and South Central is the only region in the state where manufacturing is the largest employing industry. Average wages in manufacturing are 25 percent higher than the total of all industries.

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CareerForce
It's your state of success



View videos of career paths in manufacturing:
www.careeronestop.org/Videos/CareerVideos/career-videos.aspx

These jobs are in demand in Southwest and South Central Minnesota and these are SW/SC Minnesota Median wages. Data collected from Department of Employment and Economic Development.



MINNESOTA STATE
Advanced Manufacturing Center of Excellence



**MINNESOTA
MANUFACTURED**

We are Minnesota's resource for manufacturing career promotion. We lead the annual Minnesota Statewide Tour of Manufacturing and offer FREE resources such as:

- A Multi-layered Manufacturing Career Tool, including an interactive quiz
- Teacher Guide curriculum including worksheets, activities and facts about MN manufacturing
- Digital Badge Pathway career exploration system, including an opportunity to win a scholarship to our very own manufacturing certificate program, ETECH.
- Library of career videos

To learn more or become a sponsor please visit us at www.mnmfg.org

700,000 
MN MANUFACTURING WORKERS
PLAN TO RETIRE OVER NEXT DECADE

 **64%** OF
MANUFACTURES SAW
THEIR LARGEST CHALLENGE
ATTRACTING AND RETAINING A
QUALITY WORKFORCE

IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS 
4.6 MILLION JOBS
NEED TO BE FILLED IN MANUFACTURING ALONE

 **40%** OF
MINNESOTA MANUFACTURING BUSINESSES
ABILITY TO GROW WILL BE IMPACTED
BY THE SHORTAGE OF QUALIFIED WORKERS



Scholarships for Women

Scholarships are available to women interested in learning the skills needed for excellent paying non-traditional careers such as Welder, Machinist, Auto Mechanic, HVAC, CDL drivers and more.

For more information contact

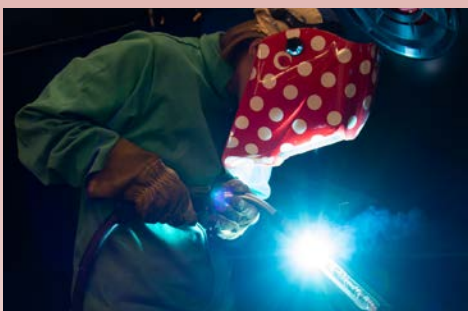
Danielle Marenco, 507-344-2638, dmarenco@mnvac.org



SCC CONNECTS

Get ready to start a
South Central College
Manufacturing Program:

- Machine Tool Technology
- Mechatronics
- HVAC/R
- Auto Body and Collision
- Welding



YOU
TO

Manufacturing CAREERS



SCC Connects is a FREE program that connects future SCC students to:

- A course to get you ready for college (math, reading and career exploration)
- College application and registration assistance
- Guidance navigating the college computer system
- Financial Aid/FAFSA
- Grants and Scholarships
- College classroom support (Tutoring)
- **Financial help with books, tuition, supplies and equipment**

SCC Connects Classes:

November 18 - December 17
Mondays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays
12:00 - 3:00 pm

Call Adult Education **today**
at (507) 345-5222

www.southcentral.edu/connects