

Testimony regarding S.B. 476: An act requiring input from local manufacturers in developing manufacturing technology programs at the regional community-technical colleges.

Submitted by: David Boiano, MFG. Engineer, Six Sigma Black Belt

Prospect Machine Products, Inc., Prospect, CT

The Advance Manufacturing Technology Centers must fill the needs of today's manufacturers, while building on future technologies and methods of manufacturing to help Connecticut reclaim the status we once had. This cannot be done without taking into account the specific needs of Connecticut's diverse base of manufacturing disciplines. Be it from the Connecticut River Valley manufacturers specializing in complex, low volume assemblies or the Naugatuck River Valley manufacturers specializing in complex, high volume components.

The Asnuntuck program was designed specifically to serve the needs of the surrounding manufacturers of precision machined aerospace components and was created with extensive input from these manufacturers.

The manufacturers served by Naugatuck Valley Community College are very different from the Asnuntuck area ones. We are high volume, high precision manufacturers of low cost complex components. We do not make widgets or useless items. The majority of the components manufactured go into hi tech precision assemblies that have health, life and safety repercussions if not made to exacting specifications.

Although the ATMC is based on a proven model, it is critical to the success of the program to leverage the Asnuntuck model of collaboration that took into account the diverse needs of the manufacturers being served by Asnuntuck. It's unrealistic to think a program focusing on the needs of one specific group, will work for every type of manufacturer.

As an example, from 30 companies surveyed in the Danbury/Waterbury area there are 217 advanced technical positions, only 36, or 17% of them are CNC related.

To strictly follow the curriculum as is, will not fill the needs of the majority of the manufacturers in all areas, it will not provide employment for graduates and it will eventually fail to achieve the goal(s) of the centers.

By having two co-chairs, one from manufacturing, and one college representative, and soliciting input from area manufacturers, we can assure the needs of today's manufacturers and the goals of the center are fulfilled.

The success of the Asnuntuck program can be attributed to the collaboration between the college and local manufacturers. This collaborative success should be leveraged and duplicated.