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MSCC Becomes Manufacturing Skills Testing/Training Site

Mid-South Community College has met the exacting criteria of the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council (MSSC) and has been certified as an Assessment Center that evaluates high-performance manufacturing knowledge and skills.

MSSC is an industry-led, standards-based training, assessment and certification system focused on the core skills and knowledge needed by the nation's production workers. The Council's partners include Amatrol, one of the world's leading provider of manufacturing learning systems; the National Institute of Metalworking Skills, the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Welding Society, and the Society for Manufacturing Engineers.

"This certification means that we are nationally recognized," said Roy Germain, Manufacturing Technology instructor at the college and an MSSC Certified Production Technician trainer.

"Just as 'ASE' (Automotive Service Excellence) certification is the standard for quality in the automotive repair sector, the MSSC Certified Production



Roy Germain earned Authorized Instructor and Certified Production Technician recognition

Technician (CPT) credential sets the quality standard in our nation's factories. A lot of manufacturers are involved with producing the exams and setting the criteria."

"This is a great opportunity for our students as well as workers already in the manufacturing field," said Donnylle Hampton, MSCC Technical Center and Workforce Technology Program Coordinator who completed the required training to serve as MSSC site coordinator for the testing/training center.

"We have the capability to provide training and testing in Safety, Manufacturing Processes and Production, Quality Practices and Measurement, and Maintenance Awareness. Students or workers who earn MSSC certification will have a nationally-recognized credential that will enhance their career opportunities."

MSCC's interest in becoming a Manufacturing Skills Standards Council center began when Germain decided to pursue MSSC certification.

"When I asked about becoming a Certified Production Technician, the people at MSSC told me the nearest testing center was in Dallas," Germain explained. "I couldn't believe we didn't have one closer than that. So I said, 'Couldn't we become a center?'"

The answer was yes, and Mid-South is now the only testing center in Arkansas and the Mid-South region. In addition to Dallas, the next closest Assessment Centers are located in St. Louis; Lafayette, La.; Lawton, Okla.; Texarkana, Tex.; Indianola and Greenwood, Miss.; and Evansville, Ind. Tennessee has no MSSC-authorized evaluation centers. The MSSC Council has fewer than 210 certified exam centers nationwide.

To become a training center, MSCC needed a Certified Production Technician, someone who had successfully completed all four manufacturing testing modules.

"Before he could actually teach all of those segments to his students, Roy had to pass all of those individual certifications himself," Hampton said. "He managed to do that in a very short period of time. He would do something for his class and then say, 'Donnylle, can you test me?' I could not believe it. He finished four exams in about 10 days."

"It wasn't easy," Germain said. "I definitely had to study. It was interesting because while I was preparing my students, I was also studying for my own certifications."

Pete Selden, MSCC Workforce Technology Program Specialist, and Belinda Looney, Workforce Technology Center Administrative Specialist, have also been trained to administer the tests.

For more information about Manufacturing Skills Standards Council certification at MSCC, please call the College's Workforce Technology Center at (870) 733-6852.