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### **MSCC Hires Trumann Native as Business/Industry Services Director**

Michael Maloney, who spent nearly 20 years as an operations/general manager, industrial/project/facilities engineer, and product designer, has joined Mid-South Community College as director of Business and Industry Services.

Maloney, a native of Trumann, will also serve as Machining Program Coordinator and machining instructor.

“Michael has a significant amount of practical, hands-on experience in the business and industrial world, and with that experience comes a very high level of understanding of what the companies in our region want and need,” said Dr. Kyle Wagner, MSCC’s Vice President for Innovations in Workforce Development.

“It is fairly unusual to find someone who can evaluate training and production situations from engineering, business, and shop-floor perspectives, so we’re fortunate that Michael chose to bring his talents to Crittenden County. His knowledge, energy, and enthusiasm will help us establish and maintain an educational model that will benefit our students and the businesses and industries of our region.”

Maloney, who lives in Jonesboro, said he can’t imagine a better fit for his talents and interests.

“To me, I’ve found the perfect job,” he said. “I really love it here. I was making a good living before, but at the end of the day, I didn’t feel like I was really doing anything particularly worthwhile with my life.”



“Now I feel like I have the opportunity to be a part of the solution to the shortage of skilled workers in our region. I’ve already talked to a lot of companies in Memphis that are really excited about what we can do at Mid-South Community College. Our students are going to have a lot of opportunities for good jobs.”

A graduate of Trumann High School, Maloney continued his education at the University Arkansas where he earned a degree in industrial engineering. Upon graduation, he went to work for Delta Wood Products, a fairly large (300 employees) family business that manufactured contract furniture. Maloney did everything from engineering and managing to sales.

When Gibson Musical Products/Baldwin Division bought Delta, Maloney agreed to help with the transition.

“They (the new owners) kind of said I went with the company, and they gave me a six-month contract to work as a project engineer to help them learn our facility, how everything worked, and help them hire a staff. After six months, I was going to move on and do my own thing, but after four months, they asked me to stay.” His six-month assignment turned into a six-year stint.

Among other assignments, Maloney coordinated the International Sourcing department and spent about six months in Asia (mainly China) over a five-year period. He said he carried five different business cards while working at Gibson/Baldwin and distributed them based on the clients’ needs.

Maloney left Gibson in 2008 and served as director of operations for Saint Blues Guitar Workshop of Memphis for six months before stepping down to focus on the family business, The Maloney Company, which manufactured high-end custom furniture. He later served as facilities engineer for Thomas and Betts which specialized in electrical connectors and conduit before coming to MSCC.

While he spent time a fair amount of his work time in the office and on the road, he never really wandered far from the shop floor.

“I’ve always been really involved with the hands-on work,” Maloney pointed out. “On my first job, I got really involved with the CNC equipment and CAD software. I was always the person who worked with that and then trained everybody else.”

“Even when I was the general manager at Baldwin, people would laugh because when officials came from corporate headquarters in Nashville at 6 at night, I would be out setting up the machines because there was nobody else to do it.”

“I’ve always been interested in new software programs, and that’s always something that came naturally to me. In working with students, I emphasize that if you learn how to use a machine the right way, it’s easier to learn a new machine. And it’s the same with design software. Not all companies have the same programs, but if you learn the fundamentals the right way, it’s easier to move from one software package to another.”

Maloney said the great facilities at MSCC provide a solid foundation for encouraging business and industry to participate in training and/or recruit students for high-skill jobs.

“We have a wonderful facility,” he said. “The first time I came over here I couldn’t believe it. A lot of the companies that didn’t know we’re here or what we can offer are really excited. They’re like, ‘Wow, you have a machining program that will help me get people who are CNC programmers? You mean you have a mechatronics program, and I don’t have to worry about the fact that my entire maintenance staff is 60 years old and about to retire?’”

“Those are the things that every industrial facility needs, and it’s all pretty similar. There is a lot of unemployment overall, but in CAD and the CNC and PLC fields, there is no unemployment. There are jobs out there that go unfilled for years. People are looking for skilled craftsmen and workers, and Mid-South Community College is going to help them find what they need. I’m excited about the opportunity to help companies stay in this area and to help people get better jobs.”

He said his background and experience also help him promote the technical programs.

“When I talk to people about what we do in the Workforce Technology Center, they know that I know what I’m talking about and understand what they need. It helps me start relationships with them because I came from industry, and I’m not just someone from education who is trying to sell them something. I’m looking to help create something they actually need.”

For information on technical education and training at Mid-South Community College, visit the campus at 2000 West Broadway, see the website at [www.midsouthcc.edu](http://www.midsouthcc.edu), email [admissions@midsouthcc.edu](mailto:admissions@midsouthcc.edu), or call (870) 733-6728.