



Twin County Manufacturing Excellence Graduation

Sixteen Students Complete Job Readiness Program

For Immediate Release

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On Friday, November 17th, a total of 16 students from Carroll, Galax, and Grayson high schools completed the Twin County Manufacturing Excellence program with a graduation ceremony at the Crossroads Institute in Galax, wrapping up the program's pilot year. These high school seniors completed seven weeks of training, receiving manufacturing certifications in Snap-On hand tool safety; 3M head, eye, and face protection; and Snap-On and Starrett caliper measurement. Travis Belton, General Manager at Moog Space and Defense Group in Galax, was a guest speaker at the graduation ceremony. "This group was the most professional, interactive group of students that have toured our facility," Belton asserted. "Their success is a testimony to the efforts of this program."

The program is a prime example of the power of collaboration and partnership. Mount Rogers Regional Partnership, Twin County Chamber of Commerce, and Wytheville Community College worked closely with Carroll, Galax, and Grayson school systems as well as participating businesses, including Albany, Mohawk Industries, Moog Components Group, Real Performance Machinery, Thomas Automation Management, Turman Hardwood Flooring, and Vaughan-Bassett Furniture Company. Perry Hughes, Vice President of Workforce Development at Wytheville Community College, also spoke at the graduation ceremony, sharing, "We're seeing this type of program being replicated all over the state. We get calls all the time from people asking how we do it."

The pilot group of participating seniors will graduate high school this spring with a significant headstart on their peers, should they choose to pursue a career path in manufacturing.

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