

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Laurie Zydonik, Director  
Raise the Bar – Hancock County  
[lzydonik@raisethebarhancock.org](mailto:lzydonik@raisethebarhancock.org)  
(567) 429-7038

**SIGNING DAY ANNOUNCED FOR INAUGURAL COHORT  
OF THE OHIO FEDERATION FOR ADVANCED MANUFACTURING EDUCATION (FAME)**

OH! FAME selects 11 participants in a program that brings local manufacturers and educators together to create a skilled workforce pipeline and pathway to area jobs

**Findlay, Ohio, April 26, 2019**— The inaugural cohort for the Ohio Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (OH! FAME) in Findlay-Hancock County will be honored in a Signing Day Ceremony on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 3pm at Owens Community College (Findlay Campus). Seven Findlay-Hancock County manufacturers have partnered with Raise the Bar Hancock County and Owens Community College (Findlay Campus) to launch the first Ohio FAME Advanced Manufacturing Technician (AMT) program. Eleven participants have been selected for the inaugural 2019 cohort: Andrew Smith, Ball Corporation; Taylor Stanforth and Amy Deeter, GSW Manufacturing; Jay Lopez Jr., Cooper Tire; Trenton Trevino, Ridge McGirr, and Lucas Wank, Nissin Brake Ohio; Troy Ward, Rowmark; Justin Bennett, Simona-PMC; and Alex Dahms and Brendan Miller, Veoneer-Nissin Brake Systems (VNBS).

Laurie Zydonik, Director of Raise the Bar, a workforce development organization based in Findlay-Hancock County is excited to see the community come together to offer such an incredible opportunity. “OH! FAME is a nontraditional model that responds to the changing demands of manufacturing and provides an exciting opportunity for this terrific group of young women and men,” she said. The curriculum and mentoring structure in the OH! FAME pathway addresses some of the most in demand skills in our manufacturing community. “We see this inaugural group as pioneers in the first of many cohorts,” said Zydonik. In the 18-month program, participants work three days a week and attend classes two days a week while earning an associate degree, gaining more than 1,800 hours of on-the-job training, and nearly two years of real-world experience alongside an experienced mentor.

The OH! FAME Signing Day is a part of the statewide initiative celebrating In Demand Jobs Week, May 6-10. In Demand Jobs Week is a statewide celebration of jobs, industries and skills that are in-demand in Ohio. In addition to Signing Day, Findlay-Hancock County has a variety of organizations participating in the week’s activities including a special event free to kids on May 6<sup>th</sup> at the Children’s Museum of Findlay to explore local careers, a tutorial on Lynda.com on May 9<sup>th</sup> at the Hancock County Public Library, and Signing Day at Millstream Career Center for graduates entering full time employment on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. Information and a map with the complete list of events can be found on the web site <http://omj.ohio.gov/indemandjobsweek/index.stm>.

Raise the Bar – Hancock County is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization focused on workforce development, supporting initiatives through partnerships with the public, private, and social sectors.

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