

FAME Newsletter – February 2009

Bringing educators and advanced manufacturing together to accelerate regional employment!

Hello FAME members and partners,

Welcome to this edition of FAME's General Newsletter. If you have any questions on the items listed below, please email Michele Stolberg for more information (fame@fingerlakesworks.com). We value your input and involvement-- thank you for participating in FAME!

❖ **Letter from the Chair:**

Dear FAME Stakeholders,

As we move into 2009, the future is cloudy at best. My informal survey indicates stable activity from the military sector, but most other market segments are waning in the face of this recession. Rest assured that FAME will continue its mission to develop a technology workforce for advanced manufacturers. Unfortunately, most of us are struggling to maintain our current skilled workers and the promise of hiring new workers might be on hold until later this year or beyond. Now, more than ever, it is incumbent upon us to provide even greater value to the marketplace. As FAME succeeds, deployment of innovations in technology, process and product can occur faster, and at lower cost, helping to enhance competitiveness in this weak market.

As FAME grows from the original four counties of Wayne, Ontario, Seneca and Yates to include Monroe, Genesee, Livingston, Orleans and Wyoming, FAME will continue to close the gaps between our academic institutions, manufacturers, government and our future workforce by helping to stabilize our current environment and prepare our region for the economic expansion that lies ahead.

Thanks for your support!

Mike Mandina

FAME Chair

President, Optimax Systems, Inc.

❖ **Update on FAME's 2009 Funding – many thanks to the Wayne, Ontario, Seneca and Yates county IDAs!**

FAME's four county funding for 2009 has been secured, thanks to the generosity of the four Finger Lakes county IDAs. By contributing to the FAME organization for 2009, these counties have ensured that FAME's important work in addressing the challenges of regional employment will continue.

❖ **Please welcome Leslie Bamann, our Advanced Manufacturing Regional Skills Coordinator, when she contacts you to meet.** Her role is to support and strengthen FAME as individual companies and as an organization. She can assist you with specific resources to weather the current economic storm and to get ready for the marketplace ahead. Please feel free to contact her at email: lbamann@rochesterworks.org, office 585-266-7760 ext. 210, or her assistant Nancy Roberts at ext. 209 or email: nroberts@rochesterworks.org. Leslie can also be reached via her cell# 585-472-1030, as she is out helping companies three to four days per week. Many of the Advanced Manufacturing calls Leslie has made concur that while the marketplace has slowed, now is the time to turn inward and focus on their existing workforce.

❖ **FAME is assembling a company tours list for BOCES and other student tour groups – can your company help?** - FAME is putting together a listing of companies willing to offer tours to various

student and BOCES groups. The goal is to introduce students to employers, with the end result being employment or internships. In order to interest students in technology, we must enable them to see technology in action! This project could be a win-win for both your company and the students. If you can host a tour at your facility, please email Michele Stolberg at:

fame@fingerlakesworks.com

Whatever help you can provide would be much appreciated!

- ❖ **FAME initiative to bring displaced professionals and technicians together with companies in need of part-time help.** – FAME would like to offer assistance to professionals whose work hours have been reduced due to the current economic slowdown. Mike Mandina of Optimax Systems has provided a listing of professionals (attached) currently affected by a reduction of hours at his facility. These individuals range from IT personnel to corporate counsel to manufacturing engineers. If you would like to submit a similar listing for your company, please send it to Michele Stolberg at: fame@fingerlakesworks.com. FAME will distribute the summary information to interested member companies as requested; companies will then follow-up with individuals directly.
- ❖ **Members in the news – GW Lisk plays a role in the US Airways water landing in New York City.**
- FAME member company GW Lisk played a role in the recent successful crash landing of the US Airways plane in the Hudson River. GW Lisk in Clifton Springs makes parts for commercial and military aircraft. They made a locking solenoid in the airbus that allowed the pilot to land the plane in the water on a backup system.
Link to full story: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28832456/>
- ❖ **FAME is tracking company to school interactions!**
Have you been contacted by a school or teacher in your area about speaking to students, available jobs or plant tours? Please pass this information on to FAME! We are tracking manufacturing to school interaction, and would like to include your experiences. Please send a short blurb to Michele Stolberg at email: fame@fingerlakesworks.com
Thank you!
- ❖ **STEP Request for Applications (RFA) available** - STEP provides funds to businesses to train incumbent workers in specific occupational skills needed by that business or industry, and that lead to career growth up a defined career ladder and to increased wages. More information on the application process, funds available, and who to contact are contained in the attached document.
- ❖ **Finger Lakes Works—with Businesses!** One of the area's best kept secrets in terms of assisting businesses in developing their workforce is the Business Services team of Finger Lakes Works. Whether it's recruiting for hard to find talent, accessing resources to train your workforce, or providing labor market information specific to your industry, Finger Lakes Works can help. If you're interested in small business seminars, on the job training, or WIRED scholarships, log onto www.fingerlakesworks.com or call 315-789-3131.
- ❖ **Finger Lakes East JSEC will be presenting the following seminar in February:**
 - **“Reducing Labor Costs in a Business Downturn” and “Shared Work Program – the Layoff Alternative”**
 - **When/Where:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009; 8:30-11:30AM at the Quality Inn Newark

- Please see link below for registration form (due by 2/13/09) and additional details:
http://www.fingerlakesjsec.org/pdfs/february_flyer.pdf

- ❖ **Upcoming FAME Hiring & Training Committee Meeting**
 - **When:** Friday, February 27, 2009, 8-10AM
 - **Where:** BOCES Wayne Technical and Career Center, 4440 Ridge Road in Williamson, Bldg. A
 - **Contact:** Becky Howell, email: BHowell@optimaxsi.com

- ❖ **Job Fairs to keep in mind!**
 - **11th Annual Finger Lakes Spring Job Fair**
 - **When:** Tuesday, March 24, 2009; 12:30pm Arrival/Set-up, 1:30-5:00pm Job Fair
 - **Where:** Ramada Geneva Lakefront
 - **Contact:** Michele Stolberg, email: fame@fingerlakesworks.com
(Registration Form and fee are due by March 6, 2009 to Finger Lakes East JSEC)

 - **Seneca County Career Day at Hillside Children's Center** (for 9th to 12th grades)
 - **When:** Friday, April 24, 2009
 - **Where:** Hillside Children's Center, Rochester, NY
 - **Contact:** Sherri L. Shoff, email: sshoff@fingerlakesworks.com

For more information on any of the events or items indicated above, please contact:

Michele Stolberg

FAME Facilitator

Email: Fame@fingerlakesworks.com

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