WHATS NEW IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:

LOOKING FOR MANUFACTURERS WILLING TO HOST STUDENT FIELD TRIPS

If you and your company are willing to host a field trip for 10-20 students to tour your facility, please contact Ashley Rowe at arowe@alaforestry.org or call 334-481-2136.

In person field trips provide the best opportunity to expose students to careers in the forest industry!

NEW HIGH SCHOOL MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATE IN THE WORKS

The Alabama Forestry Foundation is partnering with the Alabama State Department of Education again to develop a new Career Readiness Indicator certificate program to be taught in high schools. This certificate will be specific to maintenance tech as it relates to Alabama’s forest products industry.

Though still in the early stages of development, this program will provide students with the knowledge and practical skills they need to have a solid understanding of maintenance processes over a multi-semester period.

The curriculum will include the following components:

1. Safety
   a. General Safety: Including Lock out - Tag out
   b. Tool Identification and Safe Use
   c. Portable and Stationary Power Equipment I.D. and Safe Use
2. Workplace Demands
   a. Work Ethic
   b. Effective Communication
   c. Drug Free
   d. Team Concepts
3. Reading for Knowledge (ability to read manuals and apply to industrial maintenance settings)
4. Electrical
   a. Electrical Theory (AC vs. DC; Ohm’s Law; etc.)
   b. Residential Wiring
   c. Circuit Design (Interpretation and Application using Motor Control Training Modules)
   d. Troubleshooting (Controls; Sensors; Relays; etc.)
5. General Construction
   a. Reading Construction Plans
   b. Building Materials
   c. Construction Framing
6. Plumbing (piping materials and practices; cutting, bending, joining, rigid vs. flexible)
7. Mechanical Theory and Application
   a. Lubrication and Bearings
   b. Drive Systems (belt and chain; clutches; brakes; gear reduction)
8. Hydraulics (components of hydraulics systems; theory; troubleshooting; etc.)
9. Welding
   a. Theory, Safety, Setup
   b. Oxy Fuel
   c. Plasma Arc
   d. Basic Arc Welding
   e. Basic MIG Welding
   f. Basic TIG Welding

The goals of this program are to 1) introduce students to Maintenance Tech as a career option, 2) provide students with the skills they need to begin an apprenticeship or seek further training either per short certificate or 2-year technical degree.

As mentioned above, we are still in the early stages of development on this program, so we welcome any thoughts and suggestions from you. If you have questions or would like to comment on this program please email Ashley Rowe at arowe@alaforestry.org.

Alabama Ranks 9th in the Nation in Student Loan Debt

According to a report last year by the Institute for College Access and Success, the average college graduate in Alabama is carrying about $31,275 in debt, and 50% of graduates here are carrying some kind of debt.

Our efforts to make students aware of all available career options (ranging from roles which require OTJ training, a short certificate, or a 2-year trade school degree, as opposed to only those options which require a 4-year degree), has the goal of not only ensuring that the forest industry has employees trained appropriately for the skills that we need, but also teaching rural students about financial responsibility and planning.

Many rural students can earn full scholarships to trade schools in their area and can graduate debt-free with a stable, secure, well-paying skilled job with a little help and support. They just need to be pointed in the right direction! Our Forestry Works website is a dedicated sight for students to find information about careers and further training that may be needed to reach their goals. Visit www.forestryworks.com/students for more information.

For more information about Forestry Works or questions about workforce development and training, contact:

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