

Area businesses awarded workforce grants

Area businesses were recently awarded incumbent worker grants from the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

■ ABC Group Fuel Systems in Gallatin received \$24,096 to provide training to 45 employees in lean manufacturing.

■ Tennessee Stampings LLC in Portland received \$25,000 to provide training to 121 employees in lean manufacturing.

■ Servpro Industries Inc. in Gallatin received \$21,875 to provide training to 103 employees in computer skills, design and support.

Workforce Essentials, Inc. played a key role in the grant process.

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development administers the Incumbent Worker Training program. The program has been structured to be flexible to meet the business's training objectives. The business may use public, private or

its own in-house training provider based on the nature of the training.

Criteria must be met to qualify for the incumbent worker training program. Employers must be in operation in Tennessee for at least one year prior to application date. Employers must have at least five full-time employees, demonstrate financial viability and be current on all state tax obligations. Funding priority is given to businesses whose grant proposals represent a significant layoff avoidance strategy and represent a significant upgrade of skills.

"The incumbent worker grants help companies invest in the future of their workers," said department Com. James Neeley. "Over the past six years, incumbent worker training grants have totaled more than \$11 million to assist more than 40,000 employees."

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