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Press Release

MWCC & Operon partner to put people to work!

College reaches out to Staffing Company as a natural link to jobs!

Lowell, MA, April 3, 2013: Operon announces the formation of an informal partnership with Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC) to help many with inadequate work skills get jobs in the Medical Device Manufacturing sector!

The organizations met recently to frame-out the tenet of a program that better prepares entry-level manufacturing workers for the labor demands of this growing Massachusetts industry. This meeting also provided the forum to discuss a national biomedical skills harmonization effort in which they are participating.

MWCC & Operon have defined a 4-Week Career Readiness Training Program that will better prepare entry-level workers for the basic skill requirements of these manufacturers. This program is being developed as part of the Massachusetts Community College Workforce Development Transformation Agenda funded by the U.S. Department of Labor through the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant program. This Career Readiness Training Program will put up to 15 participants through the basic training regimen per session.

The content of the Career Readiness Training Program will focus on reading comprehension skills; work ethic; standard organizational policies & procedures (e.g., substance abuse, harassment, discrimination, conduct in the workplace, workers' compensation fraud, cell phone & social media use and the like); interpersonal communication skills; basic math; keyboard skills/MS Windows orientation; penmanship; problem solving; good judgment and time management. The Program will also target the assessment of an individual for: 1) manual dexterity, 2) mechanical aptitude, 3) attention-to-detail, 4) ability to follow procedures and 5) keyboarding. The purpose of these aptitude assessments is to focus the student toward job content that they can be most successful doing.

"This may sound pretty basic, but that is where the need is right now," commented Stephen Sawin, Operon's President & CEO. "Before we start giving some of these

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more borderline candidates substantive training, we need to make sure the foundation is good.”

About Operon: Operon is the leading provider of temporary labor and workforce solutions for healthcare product manufacturing companies. The company has a unique expertise in customized on-site resource management programs for mid-sized and larger companies.

About MWCC: Mount Wachusett Community College, founded in 1963, is one of the 15 state sponsored community colleges in Massachusetts. The main MWCC is in Gardner with satellite campuses in Fitchburg (Burbank), Leominster, and Devens.