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Press Release

Operon Participates in Medical Device Standards Process

Helping to Create Jobs & Improve U.S. Competitiveness

Bloomington, IN, March 26, 2013: As part of a \$15 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) a Medical Device Skills Standards consortium has been established. One of the purposes of the grant is to bring together a group of industry experts and educators to lead a national effort to develop training and expand workforce skills across the \$500 billion biosciences industry.

The intent of these skill standards, and the related programs, is to provide a pathway of employment for entry-level job applicants. For those who have been laid-off and found their skill-set no longer useful in the job market, this process will provide the opportunity to re-tool for an industry that is hiring.

The harmonization of these skills between industry and educators in a national community college approach will assure better prepared workers for the needs of Medical Device Manufacturers. It will not only enable more and better candidates for the available jobs; it will improve industry productivity making those companies more globally competitive.

The consortium, lead by Forsyth Technical Community College in North Carolina did not have a funded partner in the northeastern U.S. so they asked Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC) who is developing programs for the biomedical device industry to participate. MWCC was asked to recruit representatives from industry with insight into the skills required for successful entry level employment in the biomedical device manufacturing field. Operon Resource Management (www.OperonResource.com) was selected to represent northeast medical device manufacturers in this effort. "Your company and approach came highly recommended (by regional industry leaders)" and your role in placing individuals with area businesses making biomedical devices made you a natural choice", wrote John Henshaw Assistant Dean of Workforce Development at MWCC. As such, "The

For Immediate Release

National BioScience Consortium would like to formally invite you to participate in the national medical device skill set harmonization effort.”

Today, at Ivy Tech Community College in Bloomington, IN the consortium launched the first effort to nationally harmonize community college medical device manufacturing related education programs.

The medical device sub-group of the consortium is charged with accomplishing the following goals during the period of the grant:

1. National medical device job skill set harmonization: Identification of job types and titles for community college graduates, major tasks associated with such jobs, and skills tied to those tasks.
2. Curriculum development, harmonization and implementation among consortium members, including nationwide transferable certificates and degrees.

Dr. Henshaw characterized the initiative from a very fundamental standpoint: “This is like any other standardization effort: We listen to the needs of our market – in this case the medical device manufacturers – and we develop a skills/knowledge solution around those needs. Because of the national scope, the results from standardization are multi-faceted: First we make entry-level and re-entry candidates more ready for the rigors of a highly regulated industry; and secondly, we standardize it nationally to provide flexibility for our mobile students, but moreover to ensure the same level of excellence for all companies where these needs exist.”

As a national provider of customized manufacturing labor on-boarding services for Medical Device manufacturers, Operon is uniquely qualified to make educated and insightful contributions to this initiative. They support a breadth of companies; both component manufacturers as well as OEM’s. Their experience and perspective is formed from addressing a wide range of skills and knowledge needs.

In a statement, Operon President & CEO, Stephen Sawin said, “It is an honor and a privilege to have those in the industry that you serve reach out to you for your expertise. I know we can make a meaningful contribution and we look forward to doing so!”

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.