

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

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WTCA's Employment Portal by Sean D. Shields

Check out this new online employment resource!

Looking for a good truss technician? How about an eager and determined sales rep? You could ask around the plant to see if anyone knows somebody who might be interested, or you may place a want ad in the local or regional newspaper. Did you know, however, the best place to start is actually right at your fingertips? The WTCA Work Force Development (WFD) Portal, an online employment clearinghouse, is now available for WTCA component manufacturer members to find the perfect applicant for your current opening. Just go to www.wfd.woodtruss.com/index.php, and you'll find numerous résumés of individuals looking for jobs in the structural building components industry.

WTCA staff has been working diligently to partner with technical schools, community colleges and universities across the country, to encourage students who have either recently graduated, or will in the near future, to post their résumés on the WFD Portal. Currently, students from ITT Technical Institute have put over 50 résumés online, and soon students from DeVry University and Herzing College locations throughout the U.S. will also be adding to the number of applicants for you to preview.

Through a unique cooperative agreement with ITT Technical Institute, WTCA is developing a pilot program at various campuses across the country to identify the specific hiring needs of component manufacturing members in those areas and target the top ITT students coming out of applicable academic disciplines (e.g., AutoCAD drafting, computer aided design, engineering, programming, marketing and sales, accounting, information technology, etc.). In other words, if you don't see résumés from individuals in your area or field up on the WFD Portal right now, check back because there soon will be!

The WFD Portal not only allows applicants to post their résumés, it also gives you, the employer, a chance to post current and future job openings. To save you valuable time, when you go to post a job, the web site has numerous pre-written job descriptions and requirements for you to choose from in tailoring the announcement to your specific needs. Even after you have posted the announcement on the web site, you can always go back and tweak the language and requirements to get the specific types of applicants you are looking for.

The web site also has a listing of the types of courses successful candidates generally take in preparing for a career in this industry. From algebra and trigonometry in high school, to CAD drafting, manufacturing and construction classes at a community college, these class listings are the first step at targeting individuals who may be well suited for working in your manufacturing plant and design department, and would enjoy the type of work you would ask them to accomplish.

In addition to this powerful interchange of potential employers and employees, the WFD Portal will soon include marketing and outreach materials to promote the structural building components industry and entice inclined individuals to seek a career in this industry. Much like the current TKO-style presentations, WTCA staff is currently developing a presentation on the many benefits of working in the challenging and competitive work environment that undoubtedly exists at your manufacturing plant.

Even though the WFD Portal has only been available for a short time, there have already been a number of success stories. Applicants like Danny Mereno, said they found the web site easy to use and navigate through. In several cases, applicants indicated they were contacted by more than one potential employer. Danny said he has recently taken a job with one of the employers he was contacted by after posting his résumé on the WFD Portal.

The WFD Portal exists to help you find the best candidates for your company. Whether you need someone adept at CAD and math, or an individual that is more manufacturing oriented, you should be able to find them by searching through the résumés online. We encourage you to check it out today

In an effort to continually improve the effectiveness and usefulness of this site, an online survey is available there for you to fill out. If you see something missing you think would be valuable, we would love to hear from you!

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