

## Local Schools



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# Grant Helps Three Rivers College Build Apprenticeship Program

DECEMBER 13TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Three Rivers College recently received a grant from the Division of Workforce Development through the Missouri Registered Apprenticeship Program (MORAP) that has allowed the College to start an apprenticeship program in cooperation with area manufacturers. The goal of the program is to work with local businesses to create much-needed highly-skilled workers. Currently, the program includes Industrial Maintenance Technician and Tool & Die Maintenance.

Students in the program learn a specific skillset through on-the-job training and also receive additional education from their employer and Three Rivers. This program will help speed up the process of taking workers from apprentice to journeyman, getting people ready faster to take over for those retiring.

“There is a great demand for skilled workers,” said Dr. Dan Lauder, Chair of Career Studies and Workforce Development at Three Rivers College. “I would like students to understand that companies really need and value career technical professionals. It’s a great career choice.”

Dr. Justin Hoggard, Dean of Instruction at Three Rivers College, adds that this is a great program for area businesses, as well. “This grant allows the College some additional resources making it possible for us to better connect with employers and develop very specific needs,” said Hoggard.

“Ultimately, this apprenticeship program will lead to better trained, more satisfied employees,” said Three Rivers Assistant Professor DeAndre Prater. “It makes people feel valued to know that their company is willing to invest in them. It’s good for everyone,” said Prater.

As more manufacturers learn about the program and its benefits, Lauder expects the program to grow. “We are starting small because this is a new endeavor for us,” said Lauder. “Our objective is to get the word out and grow this into a substantial program,” he continued.

Hoggard sees this as another way the College can evolve to help meet current and future needs. “Having recently celebrated our 50th anniversary, this is one of many new opportunities for us to continue serving southeast Missouri for many years to come,” said Hoggard.

Three Rivers College is committed to contributing to the quality of life in Southeast Missouri with quality, affordable higher education opportunities and community services that support and encourage the economic, civic, and cultural vitality of the region. For more information about college and workforce programs and upcoming events, visit [trcc.edu](http://trcc.edu).

Pictured: Wade Johnson with the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship, presents the Certificate of Registration of Apprenticeship Program to Dr. Wesley Payne, President of Three Rivers College. Pictured are: front row (from left), Tina Gargas, Starting USA; Wade Johnson, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship; Dr. Wesley Payne, President, Three Rivers College; and back row (from left), William Cooper, Director, Workforce Development; DeAndre Prater, Assistant Professor, Industrial Technology; Dr. Dan Lauder, Chair, Career Studies and Workforce Development. Involved in the program, but unable to attend was Bobby Ward of Refresco Beverages.

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