



Raising the Bar, and Awareness, on Manufacturing Opportunities and Education

By Laura Byrnes, APR, CPRC

Pick your platitude.

No man is an island. It takes a village to insert goal of your choice here. Many hands make light work. Teamwork makes the dream work.

You get the idea. Very seldom is anything of importance accomplished in a vacuum. American poet Mattie Stepanek put it this way: "Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."

This month, I'd like to take a moment to illustrate that by highlighting the efforts of two of Ocala's own professionals, recently honored by the Florida Advanced Technological Center of Excellence for their strong support of manufacturing education and outreach.

Those individuals are Rob Adamiak, executive director of the Mid-Florida Regional Manufacturers Association (MRMA) and Husam "Sam" Ajlani, associate professor of business, technology and workforce at the College of Central Florida.

Adamiak, who is also manufacturing program/training manager for CareerSource CLM, has received FLATE's Distinguished Partner



Manufacturing Services Award. Ajlani was named FLATE's Post-Secondary Educator of the Year.

Ajlani manages CF's engineering technology-advanced manufacturing program which equips students with the automated technology skills to compete and succeed in today's advanced manufacturing workplace.

Now in its 10th year, the FLATE Awards recognize outstanding contributions to promote technology education and career awareness in support of manufacturing. FLATE Award winners are selected from submitted nominations from around the state. They are judged by industry representatives that serve on FLATE's Industry Advisory Committee.

These gentlemen were recognized earlier this summer during the Florida Association of Career and Technical Education Association's annual conference in Orlando. Without their ongoing efforts, those of



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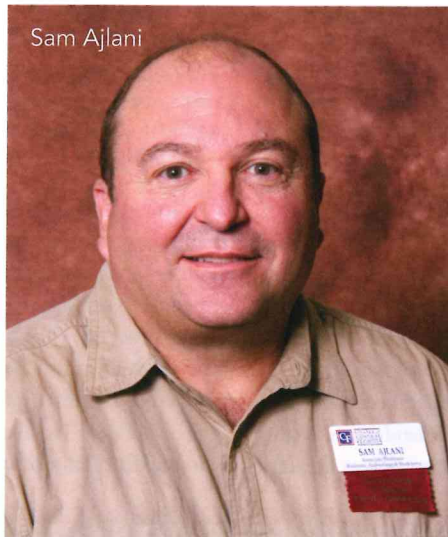
CareerSource CLM and other community partners to educate students, parents, educators, employers and others about careers and training available right here in our own backyard would be a slow slog indeed.

"I am fortunate to have exceptional partners to work with in building a pipeline of new employees, as well as upgrading skills of current employees for the local manufacturing and logistics industries," Adamiak said. "CareerSource CLM, the College of Central Florida, and the local public school systems all work with MRMA to provide support for these initiatives."

Working with CareerSource CLM, those initiatives have included providing Computer Numeric Coding (CNC) virtual computer training software to CF, Marion Technical Institute, Marion Technical College and Withlacoochee Technical College. Another program focuses on enhancing career awareness and talent pipeline development through video promotions highlighting area manufacturers and secondary education career preparation programs.



Rob Adamiak



Sam Ajlani

Please join us in recognizing – and thanking – these professionals for helping raise awareness, and raise the bar, on an industry critical to the community's economic well-being.

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