

Date: 2/19/2015

Author: Mark Alyea  
President Emeritus, Alro Steel Corp.

RE: Jackson Area Early/Middle College program for manufacturing training

Alyea pertinent background:

25 years as President, COO of Alro Steel Corp (headquartered in Jackson MI), recently semi-retired.

Alro has locations throughout Michigan and serves 8,000 (prox) manufacturing customers in Michigan.

Alro and Alyea has relationships with many manufacturers in Michigan and hear the same thing from all of them – can't find qualified, prepared employees – entry level or experienced. High school graduates don't possess even minimal qualifications.

Alyea has ability to directly access owners of manufacturers, particularly around Jackson, to influence them into action.

Conditions in Jackson at the beginning:

Jackson County ISD has operating Career Center on South side of the city, adjacent to Jackson College campus. ISD already delivering welding and machining training to approximately 40 students in each program.

Jackson Area Manufacturers Assn a strong local association with 253 members. Has developed and runs training Academy and has DOJ approved apprenticeship program – which primarily serves employees of JAMA member companies.

JAMA and Career Center share the same equipment, which is located in the Career Center. 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders use the equipment during the morning and early afternoon, JAMA classes run by the Academy use the same equipment in the late afternoon and evenings to conduct training.

Jackson College not fully engaged with JAMA member companies in providing adult education in the manufacturing, welding, machining area. Classes and programs available, but not heavily attended or supported.

Timeline:

January 2014 – discussions on how to build the pipeline (foodchain) to produce high school graduates with the skills necessary to begin career in welding/manufacturing/machining. Parties include Jackson College, JXN/ISD, JAMA, the Enterprise Group, Alro Steel.

Feb-Apr 2014 – continuing exploration of ways to meet the needs of local manufacturers.

April 2014 – learn about MAT2 from Amy Cell at meeting – doesn't look viable to Jackson market because overall size of manufacturers too small for commitment and cost required.

April-May 2014 – developed outline of JAC3 program to allow student to simultaneously work on College associate degree, high school diploma, earn hours towards apprenticeship programs at JAMA/Academy, develop relationship with sponsoring employer.

July 2014 – application submitted for Early/Middle College

August 2014 – meeting with JAMA member companies to explain program.

August 2014 – meeting with students and parents to explain program and learn parental concerns.

September 2014 – approval received from Michigan State Department of Education.

Sept 2014 – meetings held with interested Companies and students for interviews and sponsorship opportunity. 19 students sponsored, 12 companies, 8 school districts.

Sept 2014 – program begins with initial cohort of 19 students.

Participants:

Tim Rogers	-	President	-	the Enterprise Group
Bill Rayl	-	Director	-	JAMA
Mark Alyea	-	President Emeritus		Alro Steel
Kevin Oxley	-	Superintendent		JXN/ISD
Mark Pogliano	-	Principal		JXN/ISD
Dan Draper	-	Program Mgr		JXN/ISD
Dan Phelan	-	President		Jackson College
Rebekah Woods	-	Provost		Jackson College
Jeremy Frew	-	Vice President		Jackson College