

BASICS OF MANUFACTURING JOB TRAINING A BIG WIN FOR COMPANIES AND COMMUNITIES

ABOUT DAILY'S PREMIUM MEATS (SAINT JOSEPH). For over 125 years, Daily's Premium Meats® of Saint Joseph, Missouri, has been focused on providing customers with the finest processed meat products. Known for many years as "The Bacon Specialists", Daily's® now also offers a complete line of wholesale food service hickory smoked hams, sausage links and patties, and other value-added pork products. As a part of their commitment to producing high-quality meat products, Daily's® is part of a food system connected every step of the way from raising the pigs to processing the pork.

THE CHALLENGE. Daily's® processing facility in St. Joseph, Missouri, faces an ongoing challenge to find and hire qualified entry-level candidates. Sandy Duncan, Daily's® recruiting specialist, is tasked with the ongoing challenge of maintaining and growing adequate workforce levels to keep the operation running smoothly. Duncan uses every resource she can to bolster hiring efforts, so when she was approached by Missouri Enterprise, part of the MEP National Network™, about the Basics of Manufacturing job training program, she was ready to give it a try.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. To help Daily's Premium Meats® with their hiring issues, Missouri Enterprise's Area Business Manager partnered with the local Missouri Job Center, which provides programs and activities to support job training under Title I of the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA). This combination proved to be a winning collaboration.

The Job Center recruited applicants to attend a no-cost Basics of Manufacturing training program, designed to give people basic skills that make them better applicants for entry-level manufacturing jobs. Missouri Enterprise project managers taught this course introducing job seekers to the fundamental basics of blueprint reading, measuring, principles of manufacturing processes, teamwork, communications, professional behavior and problem-solving techniques.

On the last day of the week-long course, Daily's® and other local employers conducted personal interviews with course graduates and made job offers on the spot. "These people had some basic knowledge that other applicants simply didn't, and they handled themselves really well in our interviews," said Duncan. "Plus, they showed up all week to complete the course, which says a lot about their willingness to work. Last time around we made job offers to 6 of the 8 people we interviewed, and we found some great new employees. One of them, Tony, has been with us less than 6 months and he's already been promoted. He's been our solid!"

"Missouri Enterprise did a fantastic job! They were extremely professional, the communication was outstanding, and you could tell they really cared about the people they trained. It's a win for Daily's® and for our community. From now on, we'll be interviewing every time they run the Basics of Manufacturing course. What a great resource for manufacturers!"

-Sandy Duncan, Recruiting Specialist

RESULTS



20-100 retained jobs



\$500 in labor savings



\$500 in unnecessary investments avoided

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