



News Release

TRAINING PROGRAM LOOKING FOR EMPLOYERS TO WORK WITH

BRANTFORD (August 4, 2020) – An innovative program that trains people to work in Grand Erie industry has a new name and expanded focus.

Skills2Advance is the new name for the free program, formerly known as connect2SKILLS, offered by the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie. The expanded focus means people will be trained to work in manufacturing as well as warehousing-logistics.

“We listened to the employers in our community who said they wanted the program to grow to train people to work in manufacturing, which is our area’s No. 1 employer,” said Danette Dalton, the Workforce Planning Board’s Executive Director. “This means we’ll be able to assist more businesses with their HR needs.”

Dalton said Skills2Advance is looking for more businesses in both manufacturing and warehousing to partner with. Companies can use the program at no cost to tap into needed workers to fill vacant positions at a faster pace and are also eligible for hiring and training incentives, she said.

“Skills2Advance’s additional focus will help more people train to do more work,” said Will Bouma, MPP for Brantford-Brant. “This means more people ready for manufacturing jobs in Brantford-Brant and we are glad to support the work done by the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie.”

“We need effective training and retraining programs to help people and businesses get back to work,” said Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development. “As we carefully reopen our economy, employers need skilled workers. Our government is proud to support programs that help local workers and job seekers train for new careers.”

The program has a proven track record of training and placing participants in jobs. Eighty per cent of its 81 graduates found placements, which have turned into full time employment opportunities. Local companies that have participated have included Mabe Canada, Hematite, Patriot Forge, Marco Corporation, Brimich Logistics, Toyotetsu, and more.

The program includes six weeks of classroom learning – currently adapted to be online - with the opportunity for participants to have a two-week paid job placement. Students learn about lean manufacturing, continuous improvement, dispatching, material handling, shipping/receiving, and more.

Participants receive certifications in forklift/reach truck, first aid/CPR, and fall arrest. They earn three college credits through Conestoga College. Brant Skills Centre provides training in essential and soft skills.

Skills2Advance is free to employers and participants. Participants must either be unemployed or under employed. The Employment Ontario project is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

For more information about the program, people can email: skills2advance@workforceplanningboard.org

Website: www.skills2advance.com

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ABOUT: The Workforce Planning Board (www.workforceplanningboard.org) is one of 26 non-profit organizations in Ontario that play a leadership role in labour force planning. The Workforce Planning Board is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

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