

PRESS RELEASE

On February 7, over 150 high school students from six counties (Bulloch, Evans, Screven, Bryan, Jenkins, and Effingham) attended the second annual Careers in Manufacturing Seminar. This year's seminar was held in Sylvania at the Screven County High School Auditorium. Presenters from five area manufacturers (Briggs and Stratton, Viracon, King America, Sylvania Yarn Systems, and Temcor of Rincon) showcased career opportunities in the manufacturing industry. Students learned that manufacturing is alive and well in South Georgia and that it can offer a very rewarding career option. With an average starting wage between \$8 and \$10 per hour, employees with skills in industrial maintenance, electrical maintenance, welding, machining, or CNC can earn over \$20 per hour. Students also learned how those skills can be obtained through high school classes, on-the-job training, and post-secondary education. Derek Stoddard of Ogeechee Technical College was present to discuss the educational programs available at the college which train students in areas which will allow for the better paying manufacturing jobs.

The seminar was co-sponsored by the Tri-County Workforce Consortium, the Statesboro/Ogeechee District Employers Committee, and the Georgia Department of Labor. Additional sponsors providing support included the five participating manufacturers, Ogeechee Technical College, OfficeMax, and the Statesboro branch of CocaCola Bottlers.