



M & E Components, Inc.

M & E Components manufactures assembles and distributes mechanical and electrical parts with the vision of becoming the industry's leading supplier. With state of the art injection molding, die cutting, spring, and wire forming machines, M & E Components ensures that their customers receive the quality they deserve at prices they can afford.

Vicki Bender, Executive Vice President at M & E Components was actively searching for grants to assist the company in addressing their training needs. The company was in the process of making some significant improvements and to capitalize on those investments, employees would require new skill sets. They were able to receive assistance through the Business Grants for Employee Training Program to address an ambitious plan that included the following areas:

- Quality control training that included load testing, stress relief, calibration of gages on all tools, standard operating procedures for projects, and preventative maintenance;
- Implementation and use of the Vista manufacturing software program which impacts all departments and addressed accounting, production, human resources, assembly, shipping, receiving, quality control, sales and more;
- Welding instruction (MIG and TIG welding, spot welding, creating jigs, etc.);
- Understanding basic operations and functions of manufacturing machinery, reading blueprints, recognizing tools and symbols, and understanding the inspection check list; and
- Certification of all forklift drivers.

As a result of the training, M & E Components has seen immediate cost savings, increased productivity, and improved customer service. Quality control has improved with an expanded capability of employees to perform specific tests that ensure parts received from vendors and manufactured in-house meet company standards. The Vista system enables all departments/personnel to quickly respond to customer inquiries regarding the status of orders – whether it is pre-production, production or shipping. The integrated system has proven to be extremely valuable in estimating job costs and no longer requires individuals to make double entries into multiple systems. Through increased efficiencies, the system resulted in a direct decrease in utilizing temporary, contractual staff to assist with data entry tasks. After acquiring welding skills, employees are able to perform new tasks and their responsibilities have been expanded. Training that focused on blueprint reading and an increased understanding of machinery and tools beyond their area of specialization has resulted in improved communication among shop employees. Forklift driver certification resulted in increased safety, decreased property and product damage, and increased pay for drivers.

With regards to the grant program administered by the Workforce Investment Board of Will County and the need to provide training to its existing workforce, Debra Steward, Executive Assistant at M & E Components said, “While we still incurred costs associated with the training, the grant funds significantly alleviated the financial burden. The Workforce Investment Board provided guidance throughout the process so we clearly understood what was expected of us. Companies cannot grow without continually improving and developing the skills of their employees. At M & E Components, that simply is not an option.”



214 North Ottawa Street • Joliet, IL 60432
ph 815.727.5670 • fx 815.727.5669
www.willcountyworkforceboard.com

