



YOUTH TRAINING PROVIDER

HIRED AND HENNEPIN
TECHNICAL COLLEGE –
M-POWERED

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

M-Powered is a demand-driven and employer-focused sector initiative that provides a fast-track training program to help unemployed individuals develop in-demand skills in Minnesota's growing precision metal manufacturing industry. Co-convened by HIRED and HTC, M-Powered is a consortium of manufacturing industry leaders, training partners, and community champions that first came together in 2004, when they received a grant from the National Association of Manufacturers.

HIRED

Based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, HIRED is a nonprofit organization originally founded in 1968 to help ex-offenders find employment. Their mission has since expanded to provide job skills training and employment assistance to dislocated workers, low-income adults, people transitioning from welfare to work, recent immigrants, and young adults. HIRED offers programs in a number of sectors including health care, customer service, culinary, hospitality, and green jobs, and supports participants by providing case management services and soft-skills training.

HENNEPIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE (HTC)

Offering more than 45 programs designed to prepare students for careers in high-demand jobs, Hennepin Technical College (HTC) has served the Twin Cities and neighboring communities since 1972. In addition to the M-Powered program, the technical college also offers degrees and certificates in manufacturing, with course offerings including welding and metal fabrication, plastics engineering technology, machine tool technology and quality assurance, and manufacturing engineering technology. The school reports 94 percent of their students finding jobs within their network of business partners.



SUCCESS STORY

DAVID SCHAENZER

"In 2006 I graduated high school, and I started a prison sentence in 2007," said David Schaezner. "While I was there I was contacted by HIRED. If not for the M-Powered career pathway training it would have been rough. I don't think I would have ended up here."

Where David ended up was working as a journeyman machine operator at E.J. Ajax, where he continues to further his education and move up the career ladder. He began the M-Powered program while still in prison,

where Hennepin Technical College faculty came on site to teach the course. Upon release, he started the second phase of the program, and through his connection to the program was introduced to the employer who would ultimately offer him a full-time job.

"I am actually enrolling in a welding program at Dunwoody College," said David. "Right now we don't really have a big welding program here, but the goal is to have one. Ideally I'll be heading that program."

TRAINING PROGRAM

M-Powered is focused on meeting the needs of manufacturing employers in the Twin Cities who are experiencing a shortage of skilled workers while also offering a first step on the career ladder for unemployed workers. Training is offered in four career tracks: Computer Controlled Micro-machining Technician, Precision Metal Stamping Technician, Quality Process Technician, and Soldering/Clean-room Manufacturing Technician.

The program is structured in three phases, and each phase includes both technical skills training and integrated employability training, such as team building, resume writing, and interviewing skills. The first phase of the program is "manufacturing fundamentals," a 180-hour course providing skills in shop math, print reading, measuring tools, hand tools, shop safety, metallurgy, and employment/life skills.

In phase two, participants get specialized training in one of the four career tracks listed above. This classroom-based training gives students the foundation of skills needed to succeed in phase three, which is on-the-job training. Students have the opportunity to work for an employer partner for three months in a structured OJT experience. Ongoing case management in all three phases ensures that participants make the most of these opportunities, and placement rates are about 93 percent for the program.

EMPLOYER FEEDBACK

"We used to be able to bring someone into our metal-forming business that didn't even have a high school diploma, but because of the advancements in technology, the need for critical thinking skills, advanced mathematics skills, we simply are not able to find those individuals without the help of programs like M-Powered. HIRED and HTC are doing a fantastic job with M-Powered. I am truly impressed."

— Erick Ajax, Vice President/Co-Owner, E.J. Ajax Metal Forming Solutions

PROGRAM RESULTS

For the period of 2011-2013

402

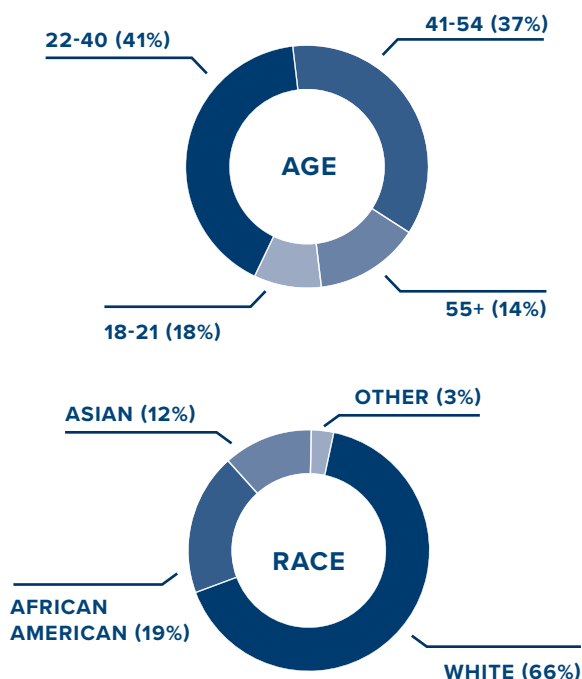
Total enrollment

\$13.84

Average starting wage

299

Participants earning 1+ industry credential



JOBS FOR THE FUTURE



National Fund for
Workforce Solutions

M-POWERED

