



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Employ Milwaukee Developed Talent Through Specialized Training for Leonardo DRS Technologies

--Nine people have been hired at a starting wage of \$18.58 an hour--

MILWAUKEE – Through Employ Milwaukee’s Short-Term Training, nine people were trained in Entry Level Manufacturing Skills (ELMS) and hired immediately by Leonardo DRS Technologies at a starting wage of \$18.58 per hour. The training was developed by Employ Milwaukee in partnership with WRTP/BIG STEP; Leonardo DRS Technologies helped design the curriculum for the four-week training program. The graduates earned a Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC) safety certification and were presented with certificates of completion at a graduation ceremony at WRTP/BIG STEP on Wednesday, June 6, 2018.

Short-Term Training is just one of a number of business solutions Employ Milwaukee offers through its Business Services Department. The Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC) certification is a national training, assessment, and certification system. Content is based on industry-defined and federally-endorsed national standards, preparing candidates for entry-level to supervisory production roles.

Ralph Simpson, the Senior Manager of Operations at Leonardo DRS Technologies, stated, “One of our most valuable resources is our employees who work to produce an essential product for the U.S. Navy and new employees play a key role in producing the products.” To the graduates, “I ask that you continue to learn and stay positive as this is a great opportunity. The number of orders we have for our product will last for years and you have the potential to be very successful and retire from Leonardo DRS.”

“I saw that there was an opportunity to do a 30-day training program for a company that offered a higher paying wage for an entry-level position, even more so than the job I was at, or the job I had left. I took the opportunity and completed the program,” said Belinda Crusoe, program graduate.

Sara Rogers, a member of Employ Milwaukee’s Business Services/Solutions team, stated, “We have had a relationship with Leonardo DRS for over 10 years and we worked with them to help fulfill their workforce needs, really focusing on their commitment to hire qualified job seekers from their neighboring community. In addition, Leonardo DRS serves on our Manufacturing Industry Advisory Board, has excellent wages and benefits and opportunities for advancement. We really consider them an “Employer of Choice.” Employ Milwaukee provided funding for the training that resulted in nine successful trainees getting hired immediately by Leonardo DRS at a starting wage of \$18.58 an hour.”

Andre Dixon, one of the graduates from the program, reflected on his training and reassured his fellow peers that a change in career is normal and not something to fear, “When you think about where we come from, and what we’re about to embark upon, it does not seem surprising at all. Some of us have been here before and a change in career or profession is not a bad thing. It’s a new opportunity to improve upon or to better ourselves, to support our loved ones. But more importantly, to support, encourage, and challenge those around us.”

Interview with graduate Belinda Crusoe:

Employ Milwaukee conducted an interview with Belinda Crusoe, one of the graduates from the Electrical Assembly Apprenticeship Readiness Program. We were able to get an inside look at Crusoe’s experience training for Leonardo DRS Technologies.

Q: What do you feel you have gained through your experience?

A: It was very challenging, I found out a lot of things about myself-- that I could endure more than I thought I could. It was a great sacrifice, so I found out that I was able to overcome obstacles; separation from work and a commitment to come to the program every day-- that was something I gained. I gained a greater sense of self-worth.

Q: What do you hope to see for your future?

A: What I hope to see for my future after graduating from the program is a higher paying job, with great benefits, long-term employment, stability, and to be a part of a team that’s expecting to have me and expecting to work with me, even though I’m coming in as a completely new employee. They are willing to train me from the bottom, and I feel valued as a worker because of that.

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