

## For Immediate Release

August 17, 2017



### COMPANIES SIGN APPRENTICESHIP (WAGE\$) AGREEMENTS

Five companies have signed on to become the first in the southwest region of Wisconsin to participate in the WAGE\$ (Wisconsin Apprenticeship Growth and Enhancement Strategies) program designed to promote and enroll students in apprenticeship programs. A kickoff celebration was held August 10 at Blackhawk Technical College's Advanced Manufacturing Center in Milton.

The effort is a partnership between the Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board (SWWDB), the Wisconsin Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards, and Blackhawk Tech to help build four new Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeship programs in welder/fabricator, maintenance technician, industrial electrician, and mechatronics.

Companies initially participating in the maintenance technician/industrial electrician program include Fairbanks Morse, Grande Cheese, Plastic Industries, Baker Manufacturing, and Seneca Foods.

**PHOTO CAPTION**---Seneca Foods is one of the companies participating in WAGE\$. Standing in front of the sign promoting apprenticeships are (l to r): Tracy Jallah, WI Apprenticeship Training rep.; Jeff Brown with Seneca; Seneca's new apprentice Dalton; Jim Uttech of Seneca; and BTC Dean Garry Krause.

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