



Martha Ponge
Director of Apprenticeship

Pathways to Jobs

Pathways to Jobs is a new program laying the groundwork for students to pursue apprenticeships, career and technical education programming, P-TECH schools, and much more.

As automation and technology continue to grow in the manufacturing industry, job opportunities in the Central New York area are experiencing significant growth. To raise awareness, MACNY continues to partner with local public-school educators and companies in the private manufacturing sector to help enlighten interested students and parents about opportunities in skilled workforce.

In partnering with the Central New York School Boards Association, MACNY has initiated a full-court press at making students, parents, and educators more aware of well-paying, highly skilled manufacturing employment opportunities that are in high demand. This initiative, titled *Pathways to Jobs*, has held informational events at the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovations (CiTi) in Oswego County, Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES, and Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES. These well-attended events allowed interested students and their parents to speak to knowledgeable experts in the manufacturing industry and to discover pathways to potential internships.

The purpose of these events is twofold. First, to raise awareness of these opportunities in the local community, and to develop a pool of skilled workers for local manufacturers.

Creating a pathway for these students, who are particularly interested in pursuing a career path right out of high school, as opposed to the traditional four-year college track, with a promising opportunity to stay close to home while engaging in a rewarding, financially favorable, and real-world expertise building experience, is vital.

At the April 30th *Pathways to Jobs* event at the Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES, six main panelists consisting of educators, manufacturers, and other community leaders shared the stage to share their stories and answer questions from the audience. In addition, a current P-TECH student taking college courses at the same time as high school sat on the panel to talk about his personal experience. Miguel Perez said, “What this means is that you have to be very dedicated and ready to be successful, and one of the primary ways of doing this is by following through and not quitting.”

As technology and automation continue to grow, future conferences will highlight the continuing demand in the local manufacturing community. Among the high skill jobs most in need are welders, technicians, and engineers. Creating more knowledge within households and alerting parents to the many opportunities of well-paying careers for their children is integral, especially as the workforce needs of manufacturers show little sign of subsiding.