



This special Cobra is going to be auctioned off for charity.

## DOL's \$9.6M to Aid MCC in Upgrading Workers' Skills

Macomb Community College, on behalf of the Michigan Coalition for Advanced Manufacturing (M-CAM), has been awarded a \$24.9 million U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) grant.

According to an MCC announcement, the funding will support the efforts of eight Michigan community colleges to leverage growing opportunities in advanced manufacturing, directly responding to employer needs and preparing individuals for jobs in computer numerical control (CNC) machining, welding/fabrication, multi-skilled technician and production operations.

Those targeted for training include displaced workers, employed workers who require skills upgrading, and veterans.

"Community colleges are vital to connecting education, training and students to workplace needs," said Macomb Community College President James Jacobs. This \$24.9 million DOL grant is an important step forward for Michigan community colleges and employers in leveraging our historical strength in 'making things' while harnessing the promise of advanced manufacturing for the economic benefit of our residents, businesses and communities."

He said funding from the four-year grant will cover upgrades to the colleges' manufacturing technology to current employer standards, development of new educational offerings and delivery methods, and the training of 2,738 individuals.

Selection of the four job sectors was the result of an exhaustive market analysis, including direct employer input, said MCC spokesperson Jeanne Nicol.

The M-CAM approach features education and training that promotes job readiness skills, basic skill development, pathways to certificates/degrees, employer involvement, and multiple methods of course delivery – including online/hybrid, and career services.

Another goal of the coalition is to align the curriculum for these programs across all eight colleges, which will be a first in Michigan. This will not only provide for mobility for students between community colleges but will also offer employers assurance of consistently trained job candidates, Nicol said.

MCC will provide leadership for the coalition, Nicol said. Macomb's portion of the grant is \$9.6 million, the largest competitive grant award the college has ever received. It will provide funding for equipment upgrades to its Michigan Technical Training Center (M-TEC) in Warren that include laser alignment, robotics vision systems, RFID (radio frequency identification) tag reader conveyor, CNC robot load/unload, overhead monorail paint robot, AB and Siemens training stations, VFD (variable frequency drives) and CMM (coordinate measurement machine).

Macomb will also be training more than 500 individuals in all four of the job sectors: CNC machining, welding/fabrication, multi-skilled technician, and production operations.

Macomb wrapped up a three-year, \$4.9 million DOL grant earlier this year, which focused on preparing displaced workers for advanced manufacturing jobs in the defense sector, Nicol said. The college trained 2,558 individuals, 145 percent of the grant's goal, directly matching 1,279 to jobs.

The other members of the coalition and their portion of the award are:

- Bay De Noc Community College – \$1.5 million;
- Grand Rapids Community College – \$4.1 million;
- Kellogg Community College – \$2.7 million;
- Lake Michigan College – \$1.2 million;
- Lansing Community College – \$2.1 million;
- Mott Community College – \$2.7 million;
- Schoolcraft College – \$1.1 million.

The award to the Macomb-led coalition was one of 57 grants totaling \$474.5 million announced last week through the Trade Adjustment and Assistance Community College and Career Training grant program run by the U.S. Dept. of Labor.

"These investments in demand-driven skills training bring together education, labor, business and community leaders to meet the real-world needs of the changing global marketplace," said Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez. "These partnerships strengthen not only the American workforce, but the American economy as well."

## Ford to Auction Off 2014 Cobra Jet Prototype

A 2014 Mustang Cobra Jet prototype will be auctioned off in Las Vegas this month to benefit multiple sclerosis.

The Ford Mustang will be sold to the highest bidder at a Barrett-Jackson Auction on Saturday, Sept. 28.

The car is a one-of-a-kind prototype of the NHRA competition-ready 2014 Mustang Cobra Jet.

According to stats released by Ford, the NHRA-legal vehicle can instantly make competitors a force in the sport.

The unique car is powered by a 5.0-liter supercharged V8 mated to a T4 racing transmission, and boasts an optional traction "wheelie" bar, 8.50 ET-certified chrome-moly safety cage, exclusive Cobra Jet-branded Weld wheels, three-link rear suspension, lightweight racing brakes, 9-inch rear axle, and custom Cobra-branded Recaro seats.

The purpose-built factory race car was the prototype for the 2014 model year racer, and carries a unique serial number of #2014 BJMS CJXX1. Clad in an orange satin finish with dark gray reflective stripes, it also bears a distinctive license plate with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's logo.

"The money to found Ford Motor Company came from Henry Ford's only race as a driver, so you could say motorsports is in our blood," says Dave Pericak, Mustang chief engineer.

"This Cobra Jet is an awesome factory turn-key performer at the

drag strip. It's capable of approximately nine-second quarter-mile runs as delivered from Ford. And we will include several once-in-a-lifetime experiences to the winning bidder.

"For example, few get to see the inner workings of the Ford Product Development Center and Ford Racing to learn how to leverage the Cobra Jet's power.

"This information can then be taken to the track to immediately break into competitive racing."

The winning bidder also will enjoy:

- Training at Roy Hill's Drag Racing School in Sophia, N.C.;
- Tour of the Ford Product Development Center and Ford Racing with Mustang Chief Engineer Dave Pericak, including a backstage pass into the Ford Design Studios;
- Their experience captured for a future Mustang book and documentary;
- Video of the vehicle build, testing and the action from Barrett-Jackson Las Vegas.

"We're proud to offer the opportunity for a serious competitor to up their game with this Mustang Cobra Jet," says Steve Ling, North America car marketing manager for Ford.

"But, just as important, we're honored the proceeds will support the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's work with those living with this disabling disease of the central nervous system.

"Through our long-standing relationship with Barrett-Jackson, we continue to support charities through exceptional vehicle sales."

During the auction, Ford will offer the public ride-and-drive and hot-laps experiences at the Mandalay Bay Event Center.

The ride-and-drive will feature Ford's stable of vehicles. For power junkies, the Shelby GT500, Boss 302 Mustang, Focus ST, Fiesta ST, and Shelby American-built GT350, GT500 Super Snake and Shelby Focus ST will make a rare appearance at the hot-laps experience.

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