

CAP Services *Media Advisory*

Contact: Paul Jaeger 715.343.7519

Release on September 18, 2007

Wautoma Welding Center to hold ribbon cutting ceremony.

A ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Wautoma Welding Center will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, September 21. The Welding Center began providing welding instruction to Wautoma High School and CAP Services' Fresh Start students in early September.

The \$150,000 instructional center resulted from a partnership of CAP Services, Cummins Filtration, Fox Valley Technical College, Fox Valley Workforce Development Board, Waushara County and the Wautoma Area School District. Also collaborating in the project are the City of Wautoma, Full Spectrum Welding, UMOS and the Waushara County Sheriff's Department.

Two high needs of Waushara County are being addressed by the Center, the need to upgrade the skills of Waushara County's workforce so they can compete for living-wage jobs and the manufacturing sector's pressing need for welders. Wages for welders in Wisconsin average \$15.08 to \$16.08 per hour.

Ten high school and seven Fresh Start students are enrolled in the current 16-week course. Students completing the course will earn four college credits. They will have 72 hours of MIG welding for two credits and 72 hours of TIG welding for two credits. Additionally, they will have 16 hours of blueprint reading and symbol identification.

Instruction is provided by the Fox Valley Technical College and is contracted for by CAP Services and the Wautoma Area School District. Planning for an advanced course this spring that will focus on advanced techniques and worker readiness is underway.

The Welding Center is located at 123 Pickle Row, Wautoma.

CAP's Fresh Start Program provides at-risk youth ages 16-24 an opportunity to work toward their high school equivalency diploma, and develop workplace and life skills.

Waushara County residents interested in enrolling in the welding program should contact Clayton Pietsch at 920-787-2735.

###

(Media note: Following are statements about the program from some of the partners.)

Wautoma Welding Center - What the partners have to say:

Wautoma Area School District

"The Wautoma Area School District believes that this partnership is the first step in creating more opportunities for our children. Investing in the future of our children and community creates a strong foundation for success".

Jeff Kasuboski, Superintendent

Fox Valley Technical College

"Fox Valley Technical College is very pleased to be part of this partnership to bring welding skills to both high school students and adults in the Wautoma area. We are delighted to help make this welding center a reality for the community."

Susan May, Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer

"We are very pleased with this opportunity to partner with other members of the Wautoma community to provide enhanced educational opportunities for students. Not only can they earn college credit while attending high school, they will be exposed to the college environment and the many career opportunities offered through degree and certificate programs by Fox Valley Technical College."

"This welding lab represents a significant step along the path toward greater community collaboration to benefit our young people. Fox Valley Technical College is committed to serving the needs of Wautoma and the surrounding area. We welcome community input and invite those interested to explore this and other opportunities for career development and educational enrichment available through the Wautoma Center."

Paul Shrode, Manager for Waupaca - Wautoma Regional Centers

Waushara County Department of Human Services

"Waushara County is excited and supportive of the welding course becoming a reality for the county. How fortunate we are to have such caring partners in the community who have come together to make the welding course a reality. Each week our Department of Human Services serves others who would benefit from such a resource or opportunity. We know there is a market in the work force for good welders and what a creative way to make this real for our community."

Glenn A. Johnson, Director

CAP Services, Inc.

"This Project is a great example of a goal-focused group of people determined to address a local need. It's a win-win-win: a win for individuals who will be more marketable in the workforce and able to increase their economic self-sufficiency; a win for employers who have a larger skilled workforce to tap into; and, a win for the community, with competitive employers and stronger families." CAP is proud to be part of it."

Mary Patoka, VP, CAP Services, Inc.

Paul Jaeger
Director of Communications
CAP Services
5499 Highway 10 East
Stevens Point, WI 54481
715.343.7519.
pjaeger@capmail.org