

Training Newsbeat...

Kentucky Offers Guide To Industrial Training

FRANKFORT, Ky. -- Kentucky's network of vocational education schools and centers have reached a record 71 facilities offering 60 specialized courses in eight different educational categories.

The figures are from a new report, "Industrial Training in Kentucky," released by the Kentucky Department of Commerce.

The Kentucky vocational school system, under the direction of the Kentucky Department of Education, provides a supply of trained persons for industrial employment.

"Highly skilled workers," says the report, "such as welders, electricians, technical draftsmen, are graduated yearly for the state's growing industrial needs, and schools are strategically located throughout the state in relation to geographic and population centers.

"Programs may be offered for any industrial occupation concerned with designing, producing, processing, fabricating, assembling, testing, maintaining, servicing or repairing commodities, and can be arranged at the request of an employer or employee group."

Chrysler Corporation, according to the report, successfully utilized one in-plant adult vocational education program when it recently established its new air conditioning and refrigeration manufacturing facility in Bowling Green. "The training program for approximately 700 enrollees consisted of

general mathematics, basic blueprint reading, welding, tool usage, machine principles, machine operation and Chrysler blueprints. The courses were approved by Chrysler personnel."

The 26-page report includes a detailed map of the state's vocational training centers as well as a complete listing of all vocational courses available to students and addresses where information about specific training programs may be obtained.

In addition to vocational school programs, the report explores the Manpower Development & Training program in Kentucky, community college technical education, regular colleges and universities, the Wood Use Center and related state agency services such as occupational safety and mine safety programs, and employee procurement services.

Copies of "Industrial Training in Kentucky," are available free from Box K-IT, Kentucky Department of Commerce, Washington & Wapping Streets, Frankfort, KY 40601.

Automation Leads To Higher Blue Collar Wages

LOS ANGELES, Calif. -- "Wages of factory workers are creeping up on executive salaries bringing the U.S. closer to an economy where everyone is equal," according to Thomas M.

Meade, president of Kremple & Meade, the Los Angeles-San Francisco-New York executive recruiting firm.

"The average wage for laborers has steadily risen over the years, driven both by inflation and by the trend in the industry to use more automation in manufacturing," said Mr. Meade. He explained, "an increase in average wages is one of the by-products of the automated plant because there is less demand for the low-skilled, low-paid worker."

"Top salaries of middle level managers, on the other hand, have faced a barrier at \$25-30,000 per year in the midwest and southeast, and \$30-35,000 per year in the coastal regions," he said.

Under the Phase 4 guidelines of the Nixon administration, this trend is likely to accelerate, Mr. Meade believes, because "companies will be required to strictly adhere to the 5.5 percent wage guideline for management salary increases, while many union labor contracts to be negotiated in late 1973 and 1974, will receive administration approval even though providing increases well in excess of the 5.5 percent."

"The only objectionable aspect of this phenomenon is the effect of compression between the salaries of managers and those of workers," Mr. Meade observed, "which removes the stimulus of higher salary rewards for accepting greater responsibility. It is imperative that the barriers to executive salary growth be broken down to insure that the motivation for exceptional people to seek management careers is preserved."