Clackamas Community College uses state grant to retrain laid off Dutchmen Manufacturing workers

A $106,680 grant will allow Clackamas Community College to provide training and support to 40 former Dutchmen Manufacturing employees for an additional year, the college announced Friday.

The Community College and Workforce Development grant will allow the college to continue to provide services to the workers, including occupational skills training and help with the job search.

"We want them to get back into the Oregon workforce as quickly as possible," said Roni Wilhelm, the associate director of the college's Workforce Development Services.

Dutchmen Manufacturing Inc., a Goshen, Ind.-based company, laid off 163 workers on Nov. 15 as the company closed its Clackamas plant, located at 12618 S.E. Jennifer St. Dutchmen manufactures several major brands of recreational vehicles, including Coleman, Denali, Dutchmen, Infinity, Komfort and Razorback.

After the layoffs, Clackamas Community College's Workforce Development Rapid Response Team invited the workers to learn about career resources and training.

RV and camper manufacturers in Oregon have been hit hard in the recession. In 2012, Monaco Coach ended production of RVs at a Coburg plant and laid off 255 workers. The company shed nearly 450 jobs in 2011.

Last month, the federal Department of Labor awarded a $275,517 grant to the college to support 90 former Blount International Inc. workers as they retrain for new jobs.

-- Michael Bamesberger

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