



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Chemical/Process Operator Certificate, Degree Unveiled**

Lima, OHIO – Today, Rhodes State College, Apollo Career Center and the West Central Ohio Manufacturing Consortium (WCOMC) held a public event to unveil a new program for training employees of Allen County chemical and process operations.

Rhodes College and Apollo were awarded a \$215,000 grant by the City of Lima through the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Division. Under the grant, Apollo's process operator training is modified with the addition of a WCOMC intermediate certificate and a Rhodes State associate degree. In addition, scholarships for qualified persons will be available to cover most or all tuition and related costs.

The program provides a seamless educational pathway from the Apollo certificate, to the WCOMC certificate, to the Rhodes State College degree.

The curriculum of the program was developed from a comprehensive survey of 15 chemical and process operations from Allen County. The survey included questions on companies' education, skill requirements and hiring projections.

Among other things, the survey indicated that process operators in Allen County have higher skill requirements and pay significantly higher wages than West Central Ohio manufacturers in general. Most of the companies in the survey require employees to work swing shifts. The process operators employ a lower percentage of temporary and part-time employees than the general population of regional manufacturers.

"Process operations in Allen County employ more than 4,000 people and generate over \$9 billion in annual sales," said WCOMC Director Doug Durliat. "Most of these companies require months of on-the-job-training for newly-hired employees and hundreds of hours of

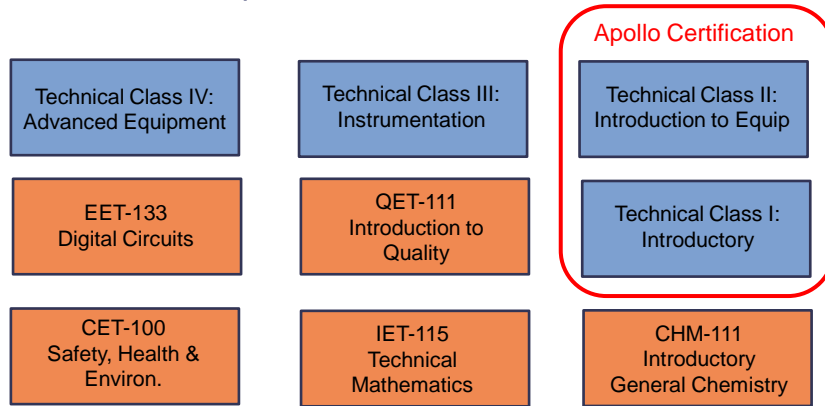
training for their incumbent workers. One of the objectives of this program is to develop a prepared pool of workers for the process operations in Allen County which should reduce the time and money these companies invest in training their employees.”

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# West Central Ohio Manufacturing Consortium

## Process Operations Intermediate Certification



Please note that the two technical courses in the upper right corner are offered at Apollo Career Center. Persons completing the Apollo classes have two courses completed toward the WCOMC intermediate pathway certificate. The other seven courses on the chart are offered at Rhodes College.