

Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 11:38 AM

Subject: The latest news and events from RCBI

J U L Y 2 0 2 0

New RCBI initiative to assist businesses with Covid-19 pivots

The Robert C. Byrd Institute (RCBI) at Marshall University has been awarded \$300,000 by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to boost its capacity to support regional economic development in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

RCBI's EDA University Center will use the CARES Act Recovery Assistance funding to assist small and mid-size manufacturers and entrepreneurs with business pivots and modifications through access to emerging technology, design assistance, quality implementation, rapid prototyping and small batch manufacturing.

Businesses and entrepreneurs needing assistance should contact Bill Woodrum at 800.469.7224 or bwoodrum@rcbi.org.

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Timely webinar to explain remote automotive audits

Registration is underway for a well-timed webinar about remote audits for the International Standard for Automotive Quality Management Systems.

The International Automotive Task Force (IATF), which oversees the IATF 16949: 2016 standard, has revised its new process in response to the challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The process enables IATF-recognized certification bodies to remotely monitor the status of an automotive supplier's Quality Management System, assess its continued effectiveness during the pandemic and proactively identify risks to the certified organization's system.

To help suppliers understand this new monitoring process and the extended time frames, RCBI's Quality Services team is hosting the free webinar Monday, August 31, at 10 a.m. EDT.

[REGISTER](#)

WV small businesses eligible for \$5,000 CARES grants

The State of West Virginia is accepting applications for the WV CARES Act Small Business Grant Program. Small businesses affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic are eligible for up to \$5,000 in relief. If you're a West Virginia business owner with between 1 and 35 full-time employees, you may qualify for assistance to cover expenses and losses caused by the pandemic.

Eligible expenses and losses include the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPEs) for staff, the cost of re-stocking inventory to reopen and losses due to reduced sales, suspended operations or closure.

The deadline to apply is Sept. 30, 2020.

[APPLY](#)

Final 2020 virtual 3D Printing & Maker Camp is next week

RCBI will present its fourth and final 3D Printing & Maker Camp of the season Aug. 3-7. The virtual event will feature hands-on interactive activities as students ages 9 to 16 learn about 3D design and printing, laser cutting, computer coding, electronics and robotics through on-line instruction, live video chats and video demonstrations.

Campers will receive their custom 3D-printed and laser-cut creations, a camp T-shirt and a certificate of achievement following the event.

Though the Aug. 3-7 camp is billed as the Williamson camp, it is open to students across West Virginia and surrounding states. The camp is hosted via Zoom Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon, with additional troubleshooting hours Monday through Thursday from 1-2 p.m.

The cost is \$25 per camper and scholarships are available for families facing financial challenges.

[REGISTER](#)

Initiative to create 15 new agribusinesses

Maple syrup production is on the rise in West Virginia, and with the help of a \$50,000 Rural Business Development Grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, RCBI will help 15 entrepreneurs grow the maple syrup industry in southern West Virginia.

Partnering with Wayne County syrup producer Toms Creek Family Farm and the Williamson Health and Wellness Center, RCBI plans to expand maple syrup production in Lincoln, Mingo and Wayne counties.

The Southern West Virginia Maple Technical Assistance Program will provide each new business with the equipment and training it needs to launch and sustain its operation.

Entrepreneurs in the region interested in participating in the maple syrup program should contact Evan Nelson, RCBI's Lean Agricultural systems specialist, at enelson@rcbi.org or 304.781.1657.

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Students still can enroll in machinist, welding programs

RCBI continues to enroll students in its nationally recognized Machinist Technology/CNC and Welding Technology programs. Fall classes begin Aug. 17.

RCBI partners with Mountwest and Southern West Virginia community and technical colleges to offer machinist training in Huntington, Welch and Williamson. Welding training is offered in Cabell and Wayne counties in conjunction with Mountwest. Students earn national credentials and either a one-year certificate or two-year associate degree.

Because space is limited, students should register now. West Virginia residents may be eligible for free tuition through the WV Invests Grant program.

To protect students during the Covid-19 pandemic, RCBI has instituted a series of safety measures that include smaller class sizes and more online instruction.

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Nominate someone who is making a difference

Do you know someone who is creating jobs, improving your community or helping change lives? If so, you should nominate this individual — even

if it's you! — for a 2021 Power of Performance Award.

Presented by the Alliance for the Economic Development of Southern West Virginia, the annual series of awards recognizes honorees in four categories: Putting People to Work, Changing Lives, Revitalizing Communities and the #WVSolutions Seeker, a new category that will recognize students in high school, career skills training and college.

This year's award recipients will be announced in November during the Small Communities, BIG Solutions Conference, which will be presented virtually because of Covid-19 safety and health considerations. The deadline for nominations is Sept. 1.

**NOMINATION
FORM**

Makerspace enhancing access for mobility impaired users

As RCBI expands its community makerspace, a \$24,035 grant from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation will improve accessibility to its tools and equipment for individuals living with paralysis and mobility impairments, their caregivers and loved ones.

"Mobility impairment should not prevent members of our community from realizing their making potential," said Charlotte Weber, RCBI Director & CEO. "Whether they are entrepreneurs, inventors or hobbyists, everyone will now have easier access to the latest equipment, tools and technology in RCBI's Maker Vault."

For makerspace information, contact Deacon Stone, Makerspace/STEM coordinator, at dstone@rcbi.org or 304.781.1659.

LEARN MORE

Manufacturer reshores components with RCBI help

A Kanawha County manufacturer struggling to get critical components from overseas came to RCBI to engineer and manufacture the requisite parts. RCBI used its Formlabs 3D resin printer to manufacture the hydrocyclones, which are used to separate and remove solid particles from liquids. In the process, RCBI reduced lead time from six months to just three weeks and produced the parts much more cost-effectively.

If your company is struggling to get parts or you need other

manufacturing assistance, RCBI may be able to help! Call us today at 800.469.7224.

IMPORTANT DATES

Aug. 3-7: RCBI virtual 3D Printing and Maker Camp. 9 am-2 pm. daily. [More information](#)

Aug. 5: SBIR-STTR Bootcamp. Free webinar sponsored by TechConnectWV and the WV District Office of the US Small Business Administration, 4-6 pm. [More information](#)

Aug. 17: First day of classes for RCBI Machinist and Welding Technology Programs. [More information](#)

Aug. 31: IATF Remote audit webinar [More information](#)

Sept. 1: Power of Performance Award nominations due. [More information](#)

Sept. 2-4: WV Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting & Business Summit, The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs. [More information](#)

STAY CONNECTED:



RCBI, 1050 Fourth Avenue, Huntington, WV 25701