

# **Upskilling and Reskilling Initiatives for the Future of Manufacturing**

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## Introduction

### Reagan Reid

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## My Company / Business Challenge



- Pella Corporation
  - A US leading Window & Door manufacturer
  - Headquartered in Pella, IA
  - 10,000+ team members; 70% Factory Hourly
  - 20 Manufacturing locations across the United States
- Specific business challenge(s)
  - Hiring Technical Talent internally/externally
  - Internal pathways / qualification barriers
  - Outdated talent development programs and processes
  - Scalability







## Pella Corporation / Upskilling and Reskilling in Manufacturing





Maintenance Technician
Internal Qualification &
Development

#### Goal

 Provide an internal career pathway using OJT, classroom instruction, and Skills/Competency

#### **Stakeholders**

- Maintenance & Engineering Teams
- Operations

#### **Objectives**

- Maintenance Technician pipeline established
- Create a process that internally qualifies and prepares team members for maintenance and technical roles
- Increased engagement of internal team members through promotional & developmental opportunities



## **Solution / Program:**Technical Trades Apprentice Program - Maintenance



#### **Program Objective**

The Pella Technical Trades Apprentice Program was designed in response to industry demand for Technical Skills, and the need to internally develop and qualify Pella Corporation Team Members for entry-level Technical Positions.

#### **Program Learning Outcomes**

- Perform work safely
- Diagnose, Troubleshoot & Repair Electrical & Mechanical systems
- Use problem solving skills
- Use teamwork & collaboration skills



## **Solution / Program:**

## Technical Trades Apprentice Program - Maintenance



#### **Key Program Elements**

- On-the-Job Training (OJT)
- Mentorship & Coaching
- Classes & Coursework
- Competency Assessment

#### **Key Program Considerations**

- Internal pathway & qualification barriers
- Variance in training & processes across sites
- Scalability





## **Program Details**





- Full-time Apprentice position for internal use; earn as you learn
- 6 months minimum, 1 year maximum in role
- Role-specific competencies
- Apprentice completes required coursework: Pella instructor-led & ToolingU E-learning

## **Program Process**

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Learning and Development

- Apprentice position is posted internally
- Candidates are selected through a panel interview process

- 6 months -1 year in training
- OJT & mentorship
- Classes & Coursework
- Competency Assessment

- Time in role requirement met
- Positive feedback/evaluation
- Classes & Coursework completed
- Competency Requirements met
- Present to Apprentice Program Review board

Program Completion; Enter Maintenance Technician Role

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Maintenance Opening

Timeline (Months)

Month 1-6: Program Enrollment, Learning & Development

Month 6-12: Competency review, Evaluation

Maintenance Vacancy

**Learning & Development** 

**Program Completion** 

## **Program Detail**



#### Implementation/Deploy

- Pilot began with 1<sup>st</sup> apprentice in October 2023
- Expanded to 5 apprentices at 3 Pella Corporation sites



#### **Unseen Challenges**

- Evolving HR policies & procedures
- Manual process & tracking



#### Results

- Increase in qualified candidates
- Increased awareness of careers in Technical Trades
- Scalability across multiple sites & locations





## **Summary / Conclusion**





Pella's strategic plan is to build our talent advantage through talent development.



## **Thank You!**

