



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **PERMIAN PLASTICS RECOGNIZED AS FIRST BUSINESS USER OF NEW MANUFACTURING APPRENTICESHIP GRANT FROM MISSOURI JOB CENTER OF ST. CHARLES COUNTY**

**ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MO** --- Permian Plastics, a custom plastic injection molding company based in O'Fallon, Mo., recently was honored by the St. Charles County Workforce Development Board as the first local business to use the new manufacturing apprenticeship grant available from the Missouri Job Center of St. Charles County. The center received \$255,000 in federal and state funding to be a pilot apprenticeship program.

Founded 24 years ago, Permian Plastics completed a \$750,000 expansion in 2009, and was acquired by Chicago-based SFH Corporation in 2015. Today, Permian has 80 employees and makes precision products as a contract manufacturer for the electronics/telecommunications, consumer/industrial packaging, biotechnology and healthcare markets around the world.

"We are honored to partner with Permian Plastics through our new manufacturing apprenticeship grant program," says Scott J. Drachnik, Director of the St. Charles County Department of Workforce & Business Development. "They are literally training their staff on our dime. Ben and his team realize the advantages of this training grant and are using it to expand the skills of one of their staff members. Permian Plastics is an advocate for the program and are encouraging other manufacturers to let us help them walk through the process."



*Chair of the St. Charles County Workforce Development Board Erin Williams recognizes and thanks Permian Plastics General Manager Ben Abbott for his company's participation in St. Charles County's Apprenticeship Program.*

The local manufacturing apprenticeship program can be used to expand the skills and responsibilities of existing employees or used to help train new hires, Drachnik says. It includes five components: 1) Training on the job, 2) Classroom training, 3) Work mentor, 4) Progressive wages, and 5) National Occupational Credential from the U.S. Department of Labor.

"We received a state apprenticeship grant to help with training and wage costs for 30 manufacturing positions in St. Charles County," he says. "Several other companies are working with us on their applications for the program, and we welcome more inquiries on a first-come, first-served basis while the funding lasts."

For more information about the manufacturing apprenticeship grant program, please contact the St. Charles County Department of Workforce & Business Development at 636-255-6060, or visit <http://www.sccmo.org/Workforce>.

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**About St. Charles County**

Founded in 1812, St. Charles County is one of the fastest growing counties in Missouri, and the state's third largest county in both population and economic share. St. Charles County consistently ranks one of the healthiest places to live in Missouri in the County Health Rankings report published by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. It is home to 12 scenic county parks encompassing more than 2,800 acres with additional land under development and more in reserve for future development.

With a population of 385,840, St Charles County is home to large employers including General Motors, Citi, MasterCard Worldwide and Boeing. It is ranked among the top 25 counties in the nation in high-tech job growth by the Progressive Policy Institute and consistently has the lowest unemployment rate in the Metropolitan St. Louis area.

St. Charles County Government employs nearly 1,100 in more than 30 departments and offices, who work to make the county an excellent place to live, work and shop. For more information, please visit [www.sccmo.org](http://www.sccmo.org).