

PRESS RELEASE

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Tech center students share spotlight with local manufacturers

MUSKEGON: On March 26 – 28, 2009, students from the machine technologies, welding, and CAD (computer aided design) classes at the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center will share the spotlight with employees of L-3 Communications Combat Propulsion Systems, Alcoa Howmet, Bayer Crop Science, Cascade Engineering, Johnston Boiler, Padnos Iron & Metal Company, Shape Corporation, Eagle Alloy, Michigan Spring, and Bennett Pump Company. Images of the students and employees working will be featured on giant screens erected on the stage of the Frauenthal Theater in downtown Muskegon as part of a multi-media performance of the West Shore Symphony Orchestra (WSSO). The local footage will be shown in conjunction with historical footage and still imagery. The resulting dynamic presentation called “**American Made: The Art of Manufacturing**” will also include recorded footage of the manufacturing process – choreographed in real time with live classic symphonic music by 20th century American composers.

To further involve high school students, their parents and teachers, WSSO is offering a free reception, scholarship information, and career fair with local manufacturers and colleges on **Thursday, March 26, 2009, from 6:15 – 7:15 p.m.** Representatives from Alcoa Howmet, Bissell, Bayer Crop Science, Eagle Alloy, Shape, Padnos Iron & Metal, and L-3 Communications Combat Propulsion Systems will be on hand. Members of *The Now Device* will be available as well to talk about the creative and technical processes that went into producing “American Made.” At **7:15 p.m.** the students, parents, and teachers are invited to attend the WSSO rehearsal. Scott Speck, music director of the symphony, will address the audience during the rehearsal.

Speck said, “In addition to watching images of people going about their daily work, you’re going to hear selections by American composers like Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein, and the great fiddler, Mark O’Connor. There’s a familiarity in the music that should resonate with audiences in West Michigan.”

Carla Hill, President and CEO of WSSO, said, “We anticipated ‘American Made’ would be a fitting tribute that would really resonate with the residents and businesses of West Michigan. Our local economy still relies heavily on manufacturing, and we felt that this performance would pay homage to the men and women who design and build the cars, appliances, and consumer goods that keep our country running.”

Tickets are available for the regularly scheduled concerts on Friday, March 27, 2009, and Saturday, March 28, 2009, both beginning at 8:00 p.m. Single ticket prices range from \$20 - \$41, with discounts for students, seniors, and groups, and can be purchased at the Frauenthal Box Office, and at Star Ticket outlets, either by calling 800-585-3737 or online at

www.starticketsplus.com. ### Leadership • Programs • Services