



State of Utah

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.  
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**Department of  
Workforce Services**

KRISTEN COX  
Executive Director

CHRISTOPHER W. LOVE  
Deputy Director

GREGORY B. GARDNER  
Deputy Director

July 1, 2008

Mr. James Larsen  
Davis Applied Technology College  
550 East 300 South  
Kaysville, Utah 84037

Dear Mr. Larsen;

The Department of Workforce Services (DWS) is pleased to join the Davis Applied Technology College, Ogden Weber Applied Technology College, Weber State University, and Utah manufacturers in sponsoring the Gear Up Career Day at the Davis County Event Center on September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

Utah's manufacturing sector has been experiencing an alarming shortage of skilled manufacturing workers for the past decade. DWS estimates there will be more than 19,000 new manufacturing positions in Utah by 2014. Most baby boomers will begin to retire in the next five to ten years and there are not enough skilled workers to replace them today. For Utah to continue to grow and meet the demands of the future, its manufacturers need the best, brightest, and most technically savvy students.

Gear Up Career Days will give more than 2,000 high school and junior high students an opportunity to explore career opportunities in one of Utah's fastest growing industries. Small groups will tour local manufacturing plants, participate in hands-on and interactive exhibits and displays, and network with employers.

We encourage all Utah Manufacturers to help make this event a success. We believe Gear Up Career Days will help students, parents, and teachers discover the lucrative career opportunities that will provide them personal and job satisfaction that will help grow Utah's economy.

Please contact Debby Nordfelt at (801) 526-9275 with any planning concerns for this exciting event. We look forward to continued partnership with you and your industry and education partners.

Regards,

Kristen Cox  
Executive Director