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Hodges Badge Partners with College's CWD for Leadership Apprenticeship Program

More than 20 employees at Hodges Badge Company recently completed a Front-Line Leader apprenticeship program, equipping them with increased confidence and fostering a more skilled and forward-thinking workforce.

That's according to Rick Hodges, President of Hodges Badge Company, who credited a partnership between [East Central College's Center for Workforce Development \(CWD\)](#), Missouri Apprenticeships in Manufacturing Program (MoAMP), the State of Missouri and his Washington-based manufacturer of custom awards.

The Front-Line Leader apprenticeship program is a U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Registered Apprenticeship program tailored to the employees at Hodges Badge. The ECC CWD's role was to ensure the seamless execution of the program, providing invaluable support and guidance throughout the process.

Employees who engaged in the year-long apprenticeship have displayed notable enhancements in their abilities, leading to a workforce that is better prepared to tackle challenges and seek out process improvements, Hodges explained.

Soft skills development has been particularly remarkable, with apprentices demonstrating a keen willingness to share ideas and knowledge for the collective benefit of their colleagues and the company.

"Employees completing the apprenticeship program are more adept at communicating effectively, including navigating difficult conversations with ease," Hodges commented. "They are better equipped to handle tough personnel issues, leading to increased trust and respect among peers."

As the second round of apprenticeships concludes successfully, Hodges Badge Company looks ahead to further advancements and achievements from its workforce, buoyed by the ongoing support from East Central College and the State of Missouri.

"We are thrilled with the outcomes of the apprenticeship program and the dedication shown by our employees," added Hodges. "Their enthusiasm for continued learning and improvement bodes well for the future of Hodges Badge Company."

For over a century, Hodges Badge has been a premier manufacturer of custom awards, including ribbons, rosettes, medals, and badges, serving customers nationwide. Learn more about the company and its commitment to employee development, visit the company's website or contact them directly.

To learn more about registered apprenticeships through ECC's CWD, visit the [Registered Apprenticeships](#) page or call 636-649-5800.

Cutline:

More than 20 employees at Hodges Badge Company have participated in a Front-Line Leader apprenticeship program in partnership with East Central College's Center for Workforce Development (CWD), the Missouri Apprenticeships in Manufacturing Program (MoAMP), and the State of Missouri. This collaborative training initiative aimed to enhance the skills and capabilities of the employees, providing them with increased expertise and proficiency in their roles.