For Immediate Release

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State of Ohio Grant Allows Rhodes State College to Better Train Students and Current Workers in Advanced Manufacturing

LIMA, OH –A $248,000 grant from the Ohio Board of Regents will help Rhodes State College purchase new high tech equipment to train the next generation of students and incumbent workers for careers in advanced manufacturing.

The money is from the Regents' Workforce Development Equipment and Facility Grant Program and will allow for an upgrade of the College's Manufacturing Laboratory and the purchase of welders, CNC lathe and mill and automation systems. CNC equipment is used to fabricate metal parts and to manufacture dies for stamping and molding processes. Rhodes State was one of 12 colleges and universities to receive the money.

The training is for jobs in the fabricated metal products industry and allows the College to build on its successful relationship with the West Central Ohio Manufacturing Consortium. Several area manufacturers – Ford Lima Engine Plant, Dana Corporation, Grob Systems Inc. and Procter & Gamble Co.- have committed to using the facility and equipment for training and potentially hiring the newly skilled individuals.

Dr. Antoinette Baldin, Interim Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Division of Information Technology and Engineering Technology at Rhodes State College said, "This money helps Rhodes State increase our capacity to meet the needs of area employers in advanced manufacturing. It is a win-win for our students, regional employers and the College."

Rhodes State will use the equipment in credit and non-credit training courses. People in jobs who use the equipment are CNC machinists, welder/fabricators and tool & die personnel. Manufacturing provides 41.3 percent of the total annual private sector payroll in Rhodes' 10-county service region.

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