

THE NEW FACE OF APPRENTICESHIP

Clafin Medical Equipment and Clafin Company launch apprenticeship programs and hire first 5 apprentices.

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With so few qualified biomedical equipment technicians and healthcare IT specialists on the job market, Clafin Medical Equipment and Clafin Company are taking charge by launching custom-designed apprenticeship programs. Clafin Medical Equipment, a support and services provider of medical equipment, and Clafin Company, a medical supplies distributor, hired 5 new apprentices in programs that will prepare them to be Biomedical Equipment Technicians and Data Scientists. Both Apprenticeships are three-years in length and combine full-time employment with coursework at CCRI leading to a college degree as well as national certifications.

Clafin's Data Scientists are cross trained in managing the intersection of IT and healthcare business operations. They install hardware and network equipment as well as supporting software applications. Biomedical equipment technicians maintain and repair a wide range of medical equipment in hospital and clinical settings. "Apprenticeship is a game changer for tech-talent acquisition, with it we can close the "skills gap", said Eric Robinson, Director of Operations for Clafin Medical Equipment. "It allows us to broaden our recruitment strategy beyond those applicants that happen to arrive at our door fully qualified, credentialed, and experienced in the field; instead, we can grow our own talent base, groomed exactly as we need them to be through the right combination of education and on-the-job experience."

"Real Jobs grants are designed to flexibly meet the needs of Rhode Island employers." said Director Scott Jensen of the RI Department of Labor and Training. "Since Registered Apprenticeship is the ultimate employer-driven workforce training strategy, it made perfect sense to support this effort with Real Jobs funding." Clafin and Clafin Medical Equipment made use of the Real Jobs grant program to develop the unique and sustainable training models this brand new Apprenticeships represent.



CCRI's Engineering and Technology faculty worked closely with Clafin Medical Equipment to custom-designed a degree program that would match the competencies required for their Biomedical Equipment Technician Apprenticeship program, including National Certification as a Biomedical Equipment Technician.

Year Up provides the perfect recruitment pipeline, providing the career readiness and foundational coursework necessary to be hired into Clafin's apprenticeship programs. "We are incredibly pleased with the performance of Year Up graduates as our first Data Scientist Apprentices" says Michael Oliver, Chief Information Officer.

And what about the apprentices themselves? Kevin Sun, of Warwick says: "Through my apprenticeship at Clafin, I can see a future for myself." Fernando Ruiz, of Providence echoes those feelings: "My apprenticeship at Clafin feels like a career, not just a job."

Apprenticeship Rhode Island offers technical assistance at no-cost to employers in the design and launch of customized Registered Apprenticeships programs with the goal of placing 1200 apprentices outside the construction trades over 5 years. Apprenticeship RI, an initiative housed at The Providence Plan, is funded by the US DOL/ETA American Apprenticeship Initiative and part of ApprenticeshipUSA.