River Valley Community College partners with gunmaker

By Sentinel Staff
| Posted: Saturday, August 9, 2014 8:00 am

River Valley Community College has entered a partnership with firearms manufacturer Sturm, Ruger & Co.

The college, with campuses in Claremont in Keene, will serve as the sole trainer for the gunmaker in New Hampshire, teaching manufacturing skills to temporary workers who then could go on to be hired as permanent employees, according to a news release from the college.

More than 90 people have completed the program since it was started in March.

College President Alicia Harvey-Smith credited the college’s ability to customize training for the early success of the program.

“We can directly meet industry’s needs,” she said. “I believe we have a social mission to meeting the community’s needs, and there is a need for well-paying employment. We have created a clear path to that employment by providing flexible and responsive training sensitive to those needs. What’s more, we’re connecting trainees and employers.”

The partnership will continue for three years.

William Hudon, an instructor with 17 years of machine tool experience, said the program saves training time — up to six weeks — and allows employers’ production speeds to stay high. The company said better-trained workers end up saving the company money in the long run, by making fewer mistakes and noticing issues that need to be addressed sooner than people who don’t complete the program.