

GACC NY Collaborates with Germany's Handwerkskammer on Apprenticeship Exchanges

By Matthew Allen, GACC

At the Handwerkskammer Frankfurt-Rhein-Main, or Chamber of Crafts (HWK), 10,000 apprentices are learning skills to become the next leaders in 130 trades. In addition to the robust dual-education system, the HWK recognizes that additional, unique opportunities are critical to accelerating career success.

Jeanette Pittman, who organizes international programs for apprentices, knows this well. Beginning in summer 2020, she will lead a group of 20 apprentices to Madison, Wisconsin, where they will integrate into host companies share their training experience. The GACC will collaborate with the HWK to facilitate the visit to the US. Matthew Allen, GACC's Director of Careers & Education, visited the HWK's training academy on March 14th and discussed exchange opportunities for American apprentices as well.

During the visit, Jeanette introduced Matthew to one of the HWK's experienced trainers, Lars Vellmer. Lars opened his classrooms and presented a dynamic mechatronics "Meister" (Master) program concentrating on motorcycle and bicycle repair.

Participants receive hands-on experience with complex engine dynamics and computer control systems, including work with the latest in electric mobility technology. In order to achieve the prestigious title of Meister, they must successfully tune these systems for optimal performance and then confirm the results through precision dynamometer testing.

The GACC will continue to develop programs with the HWK as well as apprenticeship opportunities in the US. Enrollment is currently open for mechatronics programs in New Jersey beginning in Fall 2019. Multiple other opportunities are available throughout the GACC network. For more information, please contact Matthew Allen at mallen@gaccny.com.