

Workers learn how to better use spreadsheets

By **SUSAN FIELD**
Clare Managing Editor

Workers at an Isabella County manufacturing firm could save hours of work after taking a training course offered by Mid Michigan Community College.

The Delfield Company, an international supplier of custom stainless steel refrigeration equipment, recently contracted with MMCC's M-TEC in Harrison to provide computer training for their workforce, MMCC Spokesman Matt Miller said.

The nine-hour training program was held at MMCC's Mt. Pleasant campus with three hours of instruction provided once a week over a three-week period, Miller said.

The training showed Delfield employees how to make Excel computer tasks less time consuming, one employee said.

"The training saved me hours of work," Patty Behrend said. "I had to bring in pricing from a 5,000 line spreadsheet and compare to another spreadsheet of similar

items from a different time period.

"I got it to work the first try - without notes."

The M-TEC - Michigan Technological Education Center - provides customized training for businesses and professional development for employees of several local companies, Miller said.

It also provides training in the manufacturing and construction trades, with students receiving personalized, self-paced technical training through classroom instruction, hands-on experience and computer-based lessons.

Other companies that have contracted with MMCC for M-TEC training include Melling Products of Farwell, PPG of Evart, Dura Automotive of Gladwin, Lyle Industries of Beaverton, Morbark Industries of Winn, Bandit Industries of Remus, TB Woods Inc. of Mt. Pleasant, Unified Brands of Weidman, CME of Mt. Pleasant and ITW Foils of Mt. Pleasant, Miller said.

Each company received customized training to meet their specific needs, Miller said.

Karen Kleinhardt, director of M-TEC's business and industry development

center, said the center's goal is to provide customers with training that will give their workforces the skills they need.

"The mission of the college's M-TEC is to serve customers with quality programs and to provide (Delfield) and others with the necessary skills that result in a trained workforce," Kleinhardt said. "The Delfield Company, like many other organizations across mid Michigan, has partnered with MMCC for many years by contracting specialized custom training programs.

"It's good for their employees and it helps their business run more efficiently."

Scott Govitz, director of the M-TEC, said that the training the center provides to students and customers benefits the whole community.

"These partnerships with local businesses are very important to the M-TEC and the community," Govitz said. "We help an organization's existing workforce develop new skills.

"This allows the local businesses to keep moving forward and hopefully hire more people, which benefits the entire community."