

## **Mike McGuire Donates Fastener Library to Rock Valley College Cold Forging Manufacturing Center**

For several years, fastener industry veteran Mike McGuire has said that one of the biggest problems, or challenges, for the American fastener manufacturer is a skilled trained working force. Therefore, he was very interested to hear about the new vocational training program for the fastener industry at the Rock Valley College Cold Forging Manufacturing Center. Rock Valley College is located in Rockford, Illinois.

“When I was in high school 50 years ago, we had what we called ‘Industrial Arts,’ and the girls had ‘Home Economics,’ neither of which is taught today in our school system,” Mike said.

“There is now a serious gap with the Baby Boomers having a skilled work force! Rock Valley College, along with several local fastener manufacturers, are trying to close this gap and return Rockford, Illinois, to being one of the top 10 metropolitan fastener producing areas in America.”

Mike believes the fastener library collection at Rock Valley College is one of the most comprehensive available and covers the fastener industry—everything from standards, dimensions, technical data and engineering to fastening applications. Leading authors include Jim Speck, Julius Soled, John Bickford, Joseph Shigley, Pat Rapp, Dr. Lou Raymond, Guy Avellon, Thomas Doppke, and Robert Parmley. It includes the Industrial Fastener Institute (IFI) standards books. A complete set of 48 fastener training posters are also included.

The Dean of the Technical & Engineering Program said several professors have been interested in the material since the college received the collection, and they are using the books for reference and for developing training programs.

Mike finished his remarks with an emotional comment: “I hope that this donation is just a start, and others in the fastener industry can contribute other materials to help build and strengthen this program and our fastener industry.”

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