

## **MSSC – MHEDA Certified Forklift Technician (CFT)** **Understanding CFT implementation at community colleges**

A school contacts MSSC with interest in the program and the school's contact information gets forwarded to MHEDA. MHEDA and/or MSSC will communicate the following:

### **Scenario #1**

In order to implement a successful program, dealer interest and involvement is required because without this, students cannot be placed in a dealer location for employment as an intern/trainee/apprentice. If a school does not have local dealers with which they can establish this relationship, the CFT is not a good fit for that school. MHEDA will make every effort to match schools with local dealers.

The CFT is a two-part program. Part 1 is a 55-hour online course and subsequent assessment. Upon successful achievement of the assessment, the student is awarded a "CFT Candidate Qualification Document." This indicates that the individual has the basic skills to be hired as an "apprentice" to receive additional training on how to repair a forklift – i.e., "hands-on" training. Local dealers will be made aware that the school in their territory is offering the CFT and will stay in regular communication with the instructor and students throughout the course. When a student has completed the course, the dealer will give "preferential hiring treatment" to the student(s) for potential acceptance into their apprenticeship/internal training program. The student will be hired as a temporary employee with permanent employment as a goal of both the student and the dealer. A "Hands On" assessment will be provided to the dealer and after the entry level forklift technician (i.e., the apprentice) has been fully trained on basic forklift repair, the dealer will administer the hands-on assessment and if completed successfully, the apprentice will be awarded the MSSC Certified Forklift Technician designation, CFT.

It is NOT recommended that a student take part 1 of the CFT course at the school if they are already employed and anticipating that a dealer will train them on the hands-on portion of the training without the student having interest in employment at the forklift dealership. Students who are interested in working as a forklift technician at a local dealership are the ideal candidates for this course. A student that is currently employed or not sure of a career path, might want to obtain the Candidate Qualification and consider the possibility of future employment in this field at some later date.

### **Scenario #2**

The school is interested in offering BOTH Part 1 and Part 2 of the CFT, the online course/assessment and the hands-on training/assessment. The school may already have a forklift technician program in place or has the means to invest in obtaining the necessary equipment and qualified instructors. If this is the case, the local dealers do not have to provide hands-on training and assessment support however, local dealers as well as end users will be highly interested in interviewing CFT graduates. MHEDA will work with the schools to make sure there is an awareness among local dealers that the CFT is being offered in their area.

### **Scenario #3**

Incumbent forklift technicians (i.e., those who are already employed at a dealership) may be interested in becoming CFT certified. These individuals can take the online course and/or assessment at a school or authorized center that offers the CFT. The technician has the option of taking the online assessment without taking the course. The hands-on assessment can be administered at the dealership where he/she is employed.