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Treasurer tours new Rhodes/Mitsubishi training center

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LIMA — A new training center at Rhodes State College is an example of what Ohio needs more of, filling the gap of workforce development, Treasurer Josh Mandel said Thursday.

Mandel visited the Mitsubishi Electric Training Center at Rhodes State, learning about the public-private partnership that led to the center. Training using the Mitsubishi programmable logic controllers and human machine interface is available only one other place, at Mitsubishi's headquarters in Illinois.

Mandel said he is "deeply concerned" that not enough young people are choosing skilled manufacturing as a career, and said high schools can do a better job of steering students in that direction. Mandel

advocated starting with bringing back industrial arts, or shop class, which some districts have abandoned, he said.

Ohio's economy can be strengthened by recommitting to advanced manufacturing, "jobs that put product out the door," Mandel said. The Rhodes-Mitsubishi partnership is an example of how to support that, he said.

Mandel said his concern for workforce development stems from his economic development concerns as the state's treasurer and chief financial officer, especially when it comes to development programs the Treasurer's Office manages.

"One of my main duties and jobs is to protect jobs in Ohio and create an environment for economic development," Mandel said. "We will have a strong economy, and a strong tax base when small businesses grow into medium-sized businesses and



Craig J. Orosz | The Lima News
Treasurer Josh Mandel talks with Rhodes State College faculty member Steven Fisher during a tour Rhodes State College & Mitsubishi Electric Training Center. Treasurer Mandel came to discuss workforce development and business policy initiatives on Thursday.