



# Apprenticeship

Precision Optics  
Manufacturing Technician

**Presented By:**  
Jim VanKouwenberg

Prototype Optics In One Week

# Apprenticeship in the United States

- U.S. DOL's Office of Apprenticeship administers nationally
- Half of the states have State Apprenticeship agencies
- Requires a nationally recognized, portable credential
- Programs can be time based or competency based

# Optimax's Journey

- Spring 2015 – exploration
- Summer 2015 – working with US DOL to create occupation title based on OP-TEC “National Precision Optics Skill Standards for Technicians”
- March 2016 – US DOL approves apprenticeability of the “Optics Manufacturing Technician” occupation title

# Optimax's Program

- 3 year rotation
- Apprentices work in 22 areas of Optimax
- Technically a time based program
- Related instruction – 144 hours/year required

# Recruitment

- Work Keys testing for math, reading comprehension
- Written essay
- Group interview

# Results to Date

- First apprentice started May 2016
- NYS approves the program in January 2017
- 5 apprentices currently in the program
- Great response from Apprentices, Team Leaders

# Surprise Developments

- REO in Colorado has started a 3 year program for Optics Fabrication Technicians
- Significant funding and support opportunities have developed

# Registered Apprenticeship

- Precision Optics Manufacturing Technician

## Questions ?

- For additional information, leave your card or contact info