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Media Contact:

Bobbi Miller
Fox Valley Workforce Development Board, Inc.
Call/Text: 920-470-0837
bmiller@fvwdb.com
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Trailer Technician Grads Honored; Local Workforce Board Partners with Employer on a Wisconsin Fast Forward Training

The Fox Valley Workforce Development Board (FVWDB), Master Fleet, LLC, and Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) celebrated the first cohort of Trailer Technician trainees in a graduation ceremony April 30, 2025, at FVTC's J.J. Keller Transportation Center.

Ben Weyenberg, Master Fleet President said, "Master Fleet was very excited to be part of this first-of-its-kind Trailer Technician Training program. Currently, we are not aware of any other formal training programs geared specifically towards commercial trailer technicians in Eastern Wisconsin. The Trailer Technician Training partnership is more than just training—for Master Fleet, it's an investment in our people, in safety, and in the future of our industry. It's proof that when we come together with purpose, we can create a lasting impact for our employees, our company, and our communities."

Master Fleet's Human Resources Director, Pam Berkovitz added, "This training equips our team with essential skills for long-term success in a high-demand trade, strengthens our operations, and ultimately contributes to safer roadways. It's a powerful example of what's

possible when industry, education, and workforce partners come together with a shared purpose.”

Kari Meixl, Director, Business & Industry Services at FVTC said, “The Business and Industry Services team at Fox Valley Technical College is proud to collaborate with the Fox Valley Workforce Development Board to address critical training needs within the transportation sector. Through this partnership, both organizations are able to pool resources and expertise, ensuring that employer partners have access to the skilled talent necessary for their continued growth and operational success. The Trailer Technician partnership has been very valuable to both Master Fleet and our employees. The program provides the underlying knowledge required for a skill set that’s critical to our success, sets the employees up in a skilled trade for the rest of their careers and helps make our roadways safer. It’s a great example of all parties working together to serve each other’s needs.”

Trainees received 80 hours of customized instruction spanning two levels of training from FVTC that increased service capacity to address industry needs and ensured employees have the skills needed to properly maintain semi-trailers. For trainees, this provided career advancement.

This training was made possible by a Wisconsin Fast Forward Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD). FVWDB partnered with Master Fleet and FVTC to write and receive a \$116,600 award to train 20 Master Fleet employees. Like many occupations, companies in this industry have been seeing stiff competition for recruiting workers and are projected to see retirements continue due to an aging workforce. In addition, the skill set

needed for this occupation is complex requiring a mix of skills in fabrication, construction, welding, electrical and brake systems.

"“We’re here to see that the skills students are learning match the needs of the market. In this successful program, Master Fleet was able to use the Wisconsin Fast Forward funds we received from DWD to not just increase the skillsets of their employees, but to ensure the safety of over-the-road transport for years to come.” said Anthony Snyder, FVWDB CEO.

The Wisconsin DWD makes Fast Forward Grants available to state employers that partner with local workforce boards and training partners to upskill their current workforce. Applications for the awards open and close at different times throughout the year.

“Fast Forward Grants are highly competitive and closely monitored taxpayer funded investments in Wisconsin workers that show tangible benefits for participating employers,” said Snyder. “We see Fast Forward Grants as the catalyst to bring together employers, employees and training partners to tackle our region’s most urgent training needs.”

Since 2013, the Fox Valley Workforce Development Board has worked with local employers in its six-county area of Calumet, Green Lake, Fond du Lac, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago, to bring in more than \$1.8 million in Fast Forward Grant dollars. “Fast Forward Grants provide us with critical resources to drive significant economic development in our area,” said Snyder. “We’re always eager to bring those dollars home to ensure our employers remain vital.”

If you are interested in learning more about the opportunity to partner on a future Wisconsin Fast Forward grant, contact Bobbi Miller, FVWDB Business Solutions Manager, at bmiller@fvwdb.com or 920-470-0837.

Master Fleet LLC is a heavy equipment maintenance solutions provider based in Wisconsin, offering services like roadside assistance, truck and trailer repair, and fleet maintenance. They have been in business for over 35 years and have locations in Green Bay, Neenah, and Milwaukee.

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Fox Valley Workforce Development Board (FVWDB) is a not-for-profit working to build a world-class workforce in northeast Wisconsin. Serving six counties — Calumet, Green Lake, Fond du Lac, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago — FVWDB collaborates with a number of state and local agencies to help job seekers gain the skills needed to find employment, and to help businesses find the highly skilled workers they need.

The Fox Valley Workforce Development Board is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need assistance with this information, please dial 7-1-1 for Wisconsin Relay Service or at 800-947-3529. At no cost, you may request information in an alternate format, including language assistance or translation information to your preferred language by contacting us at (920) 594-3655.

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