



## The Republican.

### Machining entices pupils

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MONSON The popularity of a computerized machining laboratory that was brought to Granite Valley Middle School last week is good news to the owners of Mitchell Machining of Springfield and other machine shops in the Pioneer Valley.

"There will be good jobs in this field in the area for a number of years," said John M. Mitchell, president of Mitchell Machining.

"What is really key is having an intelligent group of people to work at them."

Precision machining has been a key part of the economy and a provider of jobs in Western Massachusetts since the U.S. Armory was started in Springfield two centuries ago.

Larger corporations and the Armory used to provide the training for machinists, but these days that training is in the hands of high schools, colleges and training programs.

The Regional Employment Board of Hampden County, Inc. brought a mobile training laboratory to the Granite Valley school Tuesday, and guidance counselor Wendy L. Rosazza said about 90 eighth-graders got to take a look at what today's state-of-the-art precision manufacturing looks like.

"It was an excellent experience and it intrigued so many of our students," Rosazza said. "They loved it."

The mobile laboratory is a customized bus with 12 computer stations and two precision manufacturing machines.

The Granite Valley eighth-graders were able to use the computer-assisted design program

"The kids were very enthusiastic, and some were asking me about careers in engineering and what courses Pathfinder Regional Vocational High School has to offer," Rosazza said.

This week, 20 of the students who are most interested will go to the WGI, Inc., factory in Southwick to see a working manufacturing process.

David M. Cruise, director of the Regional Employment Board, said the mobile laboratory has been taken to groups of eighth-graders throughout the Pioneer Valley.

"We are hoping that by presenting them with some information on manufacturing, when they enroll in high school they will explore the manufacturing program," Cruise said.

Pathfinder Superintendent Gerald L. Paist, said his school is prepared to offer programs in this field for interested students and there are also engineering paths they may take in their education.

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