

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **VALLEY STEEL STAMP WINS WORKFORCE CHAMPION AWARD**

The Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board (FHREB) is pleased to announce that a lead business partner in its current Middle Skills Manufacturing Initiative, Valley Steel Stamp, Inc., located in Greenfield, received the Workforce Solution Group's statewide Workforce Champion Award at the WSG's annual Workforce Summit in Devens this week.

The Workforce Solutions Group is a statewide advocacy coalition of business, labor, community and workforce development groups that advocate for skills training and employment opportunities for low and moderate income individuals. Each year WSG honors community partners across the state who have contributed significantly to enhancing workforce development, recognizing one winner in each of the following categories: Employer of the Year, Workforce Partnership of the Year, and Youth Workforce Program of the Year.

VSS, Inc. was selected **2013 WSG Workforce Champion Employer of the Year** as a result of nominations that cited the

company's leadership in securing resources that enabled the community to revamp the Machine Technology lab at Franklin County Technical School, make the lab available in the evening hours for unemployed and dislocated workers, and build an adult training curriculum in partnership with Greenfield Community College, the FHREB and the Franklin Hampshire Career Center.

A consortium of manufacturing companies and other Franklin County businesses led by VSS, Inc. raised over \$213, 000 in private sector match, paving the way for a \$250,000 equipment grant from the MA Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development and a \$239,351 Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund training grant from MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development.

VSS is a precision machine shop specializing in complex CNC machined components. With over 40 years of manufacturing experience, VSS relies on a highly skilled workforce of 50, combined with cutting edge technologies in machine tools, inspection equipment, and process systems.