

Quarterly  
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## Investor Insider



*It is our future, let's build it together.*

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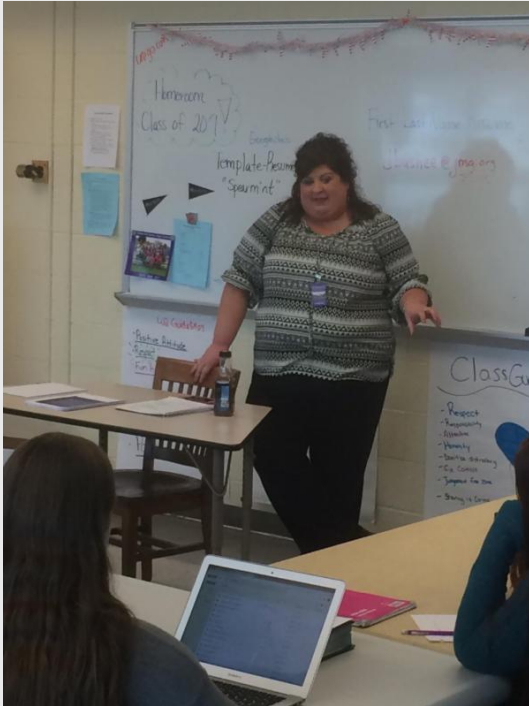
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### **Workforce:**

Central Maine Growth Council continues to work with Mid-Maine Technical Center by linking students to pre-apprenticeship opportunities with our investors. At the present time, students are getting hands on experience at businesses such as: [Central Maine Motors Auto Group](#), [Wrabacon](#), [Fabian Oil](#), and [Houle's Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning](#). The mission is clear - we want to help our investors build a pipeline of future employees and keep these students in our region. MMTC Student Services Coordinator, Beth Carlton, states: "The pre-apprenticeship program has turned into one of the highlights of a students experience at the tech center. What started as a small program with a small number of kids involved has grown rapidly. Honestly, at least once a day, I'm talking to a different student about pre-apprenticeship opportunities. These advanced juniors and seniors are thirsty for more challenges and more real-world opportunities. One senior last year summed up his experience this way, 'I didn't have a plan for what I was going to do after graduation, or at least a plan that made sense to me. After having this pre-apprenticeship I have a plan and I'm so excited about this career and my future.' "

If your business is interested in participating in the pre-apprenticeship program, contact Tanya Verzoni at 680-7300 or [tverzoni@centralmaine.org](mailto:tverzoni@centralmaine.org).



In addition to the pre-apprenticeship program, CMGC staff members have been delivering dynamic presentations to local high school students regarding important soft skills they must have before entering the workforce. Waterville Senior High School principal, Brian Laramy notes, "Tanya recently presented to WSHS sophomores on "How to lose a job". She provided an inspirational message that held student's attention through her use of wit, humor and real-life personal experiences. While the overarching theme of her message was to provide information regarding the soft and hard skills needed to be employable, the heart of Tanya's presentation was the need for students to maximize their education and never discount any career because of preconceived notions. Her words hit home with students as they are still talking about her message."

#### **Woodfords Family Services Ribbon Cutting:**

Together, Central Maine Growth Council, Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce and Woodfords Family Services will celebrate the opening of Woodfords new location! This office will support individuals with special needs and their families. This construction is part of the \$10 million dollar mixed-use redevelopment at the former Seton Hospital campus, (80 acres) which will include commercial spaces, approximately 50 market-rate housing units and more. Join us for the ribbon cutting ceremony on January 19th, from 4:00pm to 6:30pm. For more information about Woodfords Family Services, [CLICK HERE](#).

#### **Welcome, CGI Technologies and Solutions Inc.:**

Collaborative Consulting - recruited by partners including Colby College, CMGC, State of Maine, and Maine & Company - has been recently purchased by the multi-billion dollar global tech company, CGI Technologies and Solutions Inc. CGI now looks to continue *AND* increase the growth trend in Waterville, whereby it will now be hiring 300-400 high tech employees over the next 2-5 years all (largely) living, working, playing in downtown Waterville! Also, CMGC wishes to thank the team at Collaborative/CGI for building its brand new Web site! The team did a fabulous job helping us to showcase our region to potential businesses. Check it out at [www.centralmaine.org](http://www.centralmaine.org). For more information about CGI, [CLICK HERE](#).

#### **Foreign Trade Zone #186:**

CMGC is excited to announce that it has secured the first user of its U.S. Foreign Trade Zone, Flemish Master Weavers. The federally managed U.S. Foreign Trade Zone program allows for delayed, reduced, or elimination of duties, streamlined logistics, and it aims to increase imports/exports and foreign direct investment. Flemish Master Weavers of Sanford, Maine, employs about 130 people and manufactures Oriental-style rugs. The large manufacturing company looks to potentially realize savings of \$1 million dollars on an



annual basis by becoming a user of FTZ #186.

**Spring Job Fair:**

CMGC's Workforce Development Task Team, comprised of representatives from Waterville Public Library, Maine Department of Labor, Thomas College, Colby College, KVCC, KVCAP, and local businesses are in the process of planning a job fair for this Spring. Details about the job fair will be emailed to CMGC Investors. As they say, "stay tuned!"

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Thank you to the following businesses that contributed or renewed their commitment to CMGC over the last quarter:

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