



November 25, 2009

Mini-chopper project begins second year

MANITOWOC — The Manitowoc County High School Manufacturing Project — Project Mini-Chopper — is under way for its second year, according to Tracy Benter, director of operations for the Economic Development Corp. of Manitowoc County

Five high school teams have begun building a mini-chopper as part of a countywide effort to promote careers in manufacturing. Benter said students will learn all aspects associated with taking a product from concept through production, including project management, budget management, time management, problem solving, mechanical design, safety and manufacturing processes.

Taking on the challenge this year are two teams from Lincoln High School and one each from the Manitowoc Public School District, Mishicot and Valders.

Each team is given a \$2,500 budget to design, fabricate, build and paint a mini-chopper bike by the April 16 deadline. The bikes will be unveiled April 23 in conjunction with the annual Ant Hill Mob bike show.

Each team partners with a "Hard Core" sponsor that provides technical and material assistance. Manitowoc Ice, Heavy Metal Fabricators, Manitowoc Tool and Machining, Baileigh Industrial and Lakeshore Technical College have taken on these sponsorship roles.

Designs must be approved by the sponsor, and the finished project must incorporate the sponsor's corporate logo.

The High School Manufacturing Project is a collaborative effort spearheaded by the Economic Development Corp. of Manitowoc County and The Chamber of Manitowoc County, with support from Lakeshore Technical College, local businesses, manufacturers and local high schools.
