



## **Hamilton County Schools, Sequatchie County Schools, and Marion County Schools Partner With Komatsu Chattanooga Manufacturing Operation**

Komatsu Chattanooga Manufacturing Operation has been working closely with the Chamber, the State, the American Job Center, Chattanooga State, and administrators from Hamilton, Sequatchie, and Marion County schools for a year to create a work-based learning program (officially named the Pre-Apprenticeship Program) and a full-fledged apprenticeship program.

On August 18th, there was a kickoff with signing day for the inaugural class of students. For the first year, Komatsu will start off small with high expectations for future growth. These are exciting times for Komatsu as they seek to share their experiences as a manufacturer with students who have a desire to work in this field. Komatsu has gone to great lengths to create a program that is exciting, educational, safe, and that will provide real work experience (not to mention a good hourly wage) to the students chosen for the program.

Marion County had three pre-apprentices attend from Whitwell High School: Shawn Jones, Dakota Van Hoosier and Colby Sharpe. Congratulations to all!

Sherry Prince,  
CTE Director  
Marion County Schools  
204 Betsy Pack Dr.  
Jasper, TN 3737