

# THE CONVEYOR CHRONICLES



West River Conveyors & Machinery Newsletter

Quarter I 2016

## “World’s Greatest” Television Show, Featuring West River Conveyors Aired in March

Recently, West River was featured on the Ion Network’s nationally broadcasted television show, “World’s Greatest”. The show focuses on capturing the world’s greatest destinations, products, and companies. Producers of the show shared with us that the goal is to provide viewers with what they call “edutainment”, meaning that their show is not only educational and informative but also entertaining. West River was chosen from a pool of about three or four other conveyor manufacturing companies to be a part of the series.



The segment featuring West River aired several times on the ION Network in March 2016. Jessica Savage, Marketing Manager for West River Conveyors and company liaison for the show, said “We are very honored to have been featured on “World’s Greatest”. It was a wonderful opportunity to display the dedication to excellence shown by West River employees.” Jessica also stated that the final cut of the segment is now available on the company blog, which can be found at <http://westriverconveyors.com/blog>. The entire episode (No. 225) is now available on the Worlds Greatest website, [www.worldsgreatesttv.com](http://www.worldsgreatesttv.com).





# West River Participates in Annual SME Conference & Expo

In February, Joe Street and Russ James of West River participated in the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME) Annual Conference and Expo. SME is a professional society whose more than 15,000 members represent all professionals serving the minerals industry in more than 100 countries.

The theme for the conference this year was “The Future For Mining In A Data-Driven World” and focused on the future of the mining industry and how organizations can prepare for technology advances, new legislation, market trends and economic changes.

The two day event held in Phoenix, Arizona, was an excellent opportunity for West River to build new relationships, meet with existing customers and interact with potential new clients.



**SME**  
Society for  
Mining, Metallurgy  
& Exploration



# Southwest Virginia Manufacturers' Dress for Success Program & Outstanding Woman in Manufacturing Award



## ***SVAM Dress for Success Program Participants Visit West River***

Recently, the Dress for Success Program brought several participants to visit West River Conveyors' facilities. The Buchanan County seniors were able to hear about the types of jobs West River offers, about the history of the company and about the many products it provides to its customers. The students and teachers were also given a tour of the fabricating, assembly and machine shops, giving them a hands-on view of manufacturing.

SVAM's Dress for Success Program is geared toward providing high school seniors knowledge of manufacturing, links to manufacturing employers, interview coaching, and clothes to wear to school, interviews and graduation.

## ***Southwest Virginia Alliance for Manufacturing Presents Award to West River Conveyors Manager***

Congratulations to Tina Clevinger, Purchasing/Office Manager at West River, for being selected as a finalist of the 2016 Outstanding Woman in Manufacturing Award! Pictured below, with her manager, Joe Street, Tina accepts the award from Lennie Gail Mitcham of SVAM. Nominations for this honor were accepted through the first part of the year and a winner and finalist chosen at the end of March. As stated in the SVAM newsletter, "The purpose of the award is to show the significant role that women play in manufacturing and highlights women at all levels of the industry."

Tina's nominator, Jessica Savage, said, "She has positively impacted the company through her integrity, character, work ethic, and positive thinking. Her personal drive to make West River a better place to work and a more profitable business is indescribable. She's a shining example of how every employee should be. She is on time and works hard. With Tina at the helm of running the office, there's nothing that slips through the cracks. Her leadership is second to none."





# SWCC PluggedIn Virginia Students Visit West River



On March 23rd, Southwest Virginia Community College Representatives and PluggedIn Virginia students visited West River for a tour of our facilities. The students, who are currently enrolled in a Precision Machining Cohort, were able to get a hands on look at how a manufacturing plant operates. Diana Stinson, Employment Specialist for SWCC stated “The West River employees were very gracious to take the time to talk with our students and show them their wide range of skills. We were very impressed with West River. It was a wonderful learning experience”.

PluggedIn Virginia is an adult learning program funded by a grant awarded to the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration. At SWVCC, students can receive certificates in Precision Machining, Mechatronics, Welding and Carpentry. According to the SWCC website, the ultimate goal of this program is to give each student the opportunity to gain knowledge, skills, and ability to meet the expectations of potential employers.





# Employee Life



Tina Clevinger, Office Manager, celebrates her birthday with cake and a laugh at the office!



Pictured below, Lucy Savage practices for her big role in "Alice in Wonderland." Lucy is the daughter of West River employees, Pete and Jessica Savage



Hannah Lester hopes for a basket! Hannah is an eighth grader at Hurley High School and is the daughter of Shop Foreman, Ryan Lester and his wife, Jenny.



**EMPLOYEES**—Submit your news, stories and pictures to Jessica Vanover at [jvanover@westriverconveyors.com](mailto:jvanover@westriverconveyors.com) to be included in the next quarterly newsletter!

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## **Ronnie Hurley—Machinist**

No operation would be complete without the “Get-It-Done-Guy”. With close to 22 years of service, there isn't much at West River that Ronnie hasn't had experience with. Although machining is his most utilized skill, he is also proficient in reading blue prints, welding and fabricating. Ronnie says that working in the production shop the first few years at West River allowed him to gain an understanding of how everything worked and fit together. With this knowledge, he was better equipped to become an expert machinist later on. He shared that he felt that it was important for employees to be familiar with all aspects of the business to better do their own job.

When asked what he likes most about West River, he responded by saying “Versatility—there is very little we cannot do. With the amazing people and great equipment we have on hand, we can pretty much build anything our customer needs.” The accomplishment that he says he is most proud of is having worked for 22 years without a lost time or reportable accident. He added that going home to his family is his number one priority.

Ronnie explained that his incredible work ethic was instilled in him by his Uncle Terry as well as West River Co-Founder, Jerry Roulett. He shared that both men taught him a valuable lesson—“No matter where you are or what you are doing, work hard and do your best”.



## **West River Employees Team Up For A Healthy Living Challenge**



Starting the new year off right, 18 West River employees teamed up to participate in a weight loss challenge. The challenge began on January 11th with an initial weigh-in and concluded on March 7th (8 weeks). The four teams worked hard to motivate each other and lose the biggest percentage of weight each week.

Our top team, Bobby Hale, Bobby Lester & Tina Clevinger (pictured above), lost 58.6 lbs. which is 28.79% of their total body weight! The winners all received a grand prize of \$100 gift card of their choice.

With a company total weight loss of 201.4 lbs., it is safe to say that all the participants walked away healthier—all while having fun!





# West River Co-Founder, Joe Street, Speaks to Local Youth About “Keys to Success”

Mountain Mission School has been a part of the local community since its founding in 1921. According to their website, the MMS mission is to stand as a refuge, resource and relief for children in need by providing a safe home, a first-class education and an opportunity to build a relationship with Jesus Christ.

In January, Joe Street was asked to kick off the MMS 2016 Leadership Series. Representatives of the school said they chose Joe because he is a man of many talents. His background as a government teacher, athletic coach and successful entrepreneur of Buchanan County made him a great speaker for the series.

Joe spoke to the students about the keys to success: “Be Positive, Work Hard, Keep Learning and Believe in Yourself”. The students were able to ask Joe questions about his own business challenges and how he was able to overcome them. He responded by explaining that nothing replaces a great education and hard work. He reminded the kids that they are fortunate to be perfectly positioned to get the best education and that the rest was up to them.



*Joe speaks to the MMS students about success*



*Pictured above: Joe Street with his grandson, J.J., and students of Mountain Mission School*

# UPCOMING TRADESHOWS

Thanks to resources provided by VEDP (Virginia Economic Development Partnership), West River will participate in both the Expomin Trade Show in Chile and the MINExpo in Las Vegas in the upcoming months.

The Expomin Trade Show will be held on April 25-29, 2016 in Santiago, Chile. This international event will be a great opportunity for West River to meet new potential customers from around the world.

The MINExpo Event is scheduled for September 26-28, 2016 and will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada. To date, this event has more than 820,000 sq. ft. of exhibitor space reserved, which explains why this show is known as the “largest mining show on and under the Earth”.



## Contact Us

**West River Conveyors is a leader in mining conveyor equipment. Please contact us today and let us quote to your specifications.**

### West River Conveyors

8936 Dismal River Road  
Oakwood, VA 24631

(276) 259-5353 or toll free 1-800-332-2781

[westriver@westriverconveyors.com](mailto:westriver@westriverconveyors.com)

Visit us on the web at [www.westriverconveyors.com](http://www.westriverconveyors.com)

