



Mike Mandina

Optimax Systems, Inc.
Ontario, New York

Partner of National Skills Coalition

Mike Mandina is the President of Optimax and a master optician with an associate's degree in optical engineering from Monroe Community College and an associate's degree in engineering science from Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). He earned his bachelor of science degree in applied physics from Empire State College and went on to earn an EMBA from RIT. An entrepreneur, he has started two manufacturing businesses providing precision optics to photonics companies. Mike joined Optimax in 1991 and has provided the leadership to help create the prospering company that it is today.

Mike is an active member of several professional organizations, most notably serving on the boards of the Rochester Regional Photonics Cluster, the Rochester Technology and Manufacturing Association, the New York State Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board and the High Tech of Rochester's Manufacturers Extension Partnership. Mike was instrumental in the development of FAME (Finger Lakes Advanced Manufacturer's Enterprise), a non-profit organization committed to workforce development. He serves as the FAME chairperson and is the FAME representative on the Monroe Community College Optics Department Hiring Committee. As a known and respected businessman in the Rochester area, Mike has been privileged to speak at many business engagements. He was honored by being inducted into the New York State Business Hall of Fame in 2008 and is a recipient of the 2010 Entrepreneurship Award from the RRPC.

With more than 100 optics fabrication technicians, **Optimax** is America's largest optics manufacturer. Optimax leverages its optics manufacturing technology for programs that benefit mankind. They have created innovative manufacturing methods and a corporate culture that enables faster production of precision optics. Optimax manufactures prototype optical components for a wide variety of applications and has the capacity to support production requirements. Optimax's strongest market segments for prototype optics are aerospace, display technologies and solar applications, and their strongest markets for OEM production optics are semiconductor, military and medical instruments.

Business Leaders United for Workforce Partnerships is comprised of employers from a range of industries who are concerned about our nation's skills gap, who are working with local partners to train and hire community residents for skilled jobs, and who want our country's policymakers to follow suit and invest, aggressively and effectively, in the skills of America's workers. BLU is an initiative of National Skills Coalition, National Fund for Workforce Solutions, Skills for America's Future and Corporate Voices for Working Families. Learn more at: www.nationalskillscoalition.org/BLU.