

The SCPS Workplace ESL Program



GAL Manufacturing, which makes components for elevators, approached the School of Continuing and Professional Studies in early March 2018 because their new CEO wanted to improve safety and overall communication as the company goes through an upgrade. This innovative workplace ESL course focuses wholly on needs established by the company. Students are assessed individually using a test devised by Lehman ESL teachers and aligned to the curriculum, which is designed to achieve the three program objectives:

- Better overall communication among employees and between employees and management
- Better understanding of safety practices and procedures
- Increased understanding of company policies and procedures

Curriculum, books, supplies and other training materials were provided by SCPS and delivered to the training site. The company supplied equipment, manuals, company publications and other items appropriate for instruction in order to demonstrate safety and other concepts, such as company policies.



The first cohort of 27 students, comprising 16 absolute beginners and 11 slightly more advanced workers, concluded in late July. Over half of the students continued in the program, with new students enrolling in August and September. This kind of workplace ESL course, in which assessment and curriculum are customized and closely aligned—coupled with the CEO's willingness to pay for instruction—is a promising development in workforce education and Lehman's outreach to the Bronx community.