

# IBEW *and* Lucent

**Raising the Bar for Manufacturing Skills**



**T**he IBEW and Lucent Technologies have developed a new, competency-based apprenticeship program to train highly skilled workers for the new occupation of Production Technologist. The training program is designed to keep Lucent and its IBEW work force in the forefront in the global competition for manufacturing markets.

At a formal signing ceremony on April 7 at the U. S. Department of Labor in Washington, the apprenticeship program was officially registered with the Bureau of Apprenticeship (BAT). Raymond L. Bramucci, Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Employment and Training Administration, commended the IBEW and Lucent for their foresight in developing this cutting-edge apprenticeship program.

The curriculum was designed by Robert Sheets and Brian Keefe of Northern Illinois University, in close consultation with the IBEW, Lucent and the Enhanced Training Opportunities Program (ETOP), co-directed by Nick Falcone and William Dussling. Since the production technologist curriculum is competency-based, apprentices will be able to move through the program as quickly as their talents and acquired skills

allow. Graduate production technologists will have no peers in the electronics manufacturing industry for breadth and depth of skills and knowledge.

Production technologists will apply their knowledge and skills in Product Realization Centers (PRCs) located in Lucent/IBEW facilities. These centers are pledged to a mission of excellence, responsiveness and minimal time from concept, to product, to market. Two PRCs are already in place in Denver, Colo., and Shreveport, La.. Product Realization Centers are also anticipated at these sites: Columbus, Ohio; Oklahoma City, Okla.; Omaha, Nebr.; Orlando, Fla; and Allentown and Reading, Pa. The Business and Communication Systems Business Unit of Lucent Technologies initiated and funded the development of the Product Realization Center model. ☐

**Above, seated at the table after the signing of the production technologist apprenticeship program are IBEW President Barry; Anthony Swoope, Director of the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, U.S. Dept. of Labor; Ralph Craviso, Corporate Vice President Workforce Relations, Lucent Technologies; and Penney Bromell, Workforce Relations Manager, Lucent's Shreveport Works. Standing (left to right) are Brian Keefe of Northern Illinois University; IBEW Research and Technical Services Department Director Kenneth Edwards; Robert Sheets of Northern Illinois University; Raymond L. Bramucci, Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Employment and Training Administration; William Dussling and Nick Falcone, co-directors of ETOP; IBEW Manufacturing Department Director Robert Stander; Dave Hudson, Workforce Relations Vice President, Lucent Technologies; Mike Quinlan, International Representative, IBEW Manufacturing Department; Stephen Lynn, President of System Council EM-3; and Betty Lucero-Turner, Chief, Division of National Industry Promotion, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, U.S. Dept. of Labor.**