

## A “Unique” Drug & Alcohol Awareness Program



***Pictured L to R: Rick Wright, (ASI) Al Lombardi, (ASI) Mike Powell (GDC) Larry Staley, (ASI) and Shawn Bain (GDC)***

***Al Lombardi, Plant Manager*** for the ASI Harmon Avenue plant in Columbus, Ohio hosted a very new and “***Unique***” ***Drug & Alcohol Awareness***” training endeavor for their plant employee’s and spouses. The organization called, “Global Drug Concepts”, is a recently formed group of retired Law Enforcement officers with backgrounds of a combined 90 years experience in the field of narcotics and drug trafficking. They continue to have a relationship with local and federal law enforcement in the areas of drug abuse and do education for state courts, judges, police and fire departments throughout the U.S and several State, County and City entities. The instructors have spent their careers working as “Undercover Narcotic Agents”, at the state and federal levels. Their experience and education program includes their work undercover in Mexican drug cartels that extend throughout the U.S., and they are experts in the areas of current drug trends, drug terminology, drug paraphernalia, drug concealment and the physiological effects of all drugs of abuse in today’s world and workplace.

***Jackie Lewis of the ASI Columbus Plant*** has been championing this Drug and Alcohol awareness effort throughout Ashland after learning about it nearly two years ago at an H.R. SHRM conference where this presentation was done. Feeling a strong desire to get involved and help spread this important education to others, Jackie became a volunteer with the group and an advocate for this education knowing ***the impact it has on lives, in the workplace, in families and in the community.***

After the training Jackie Lewis, and the GDC speaker were given a plant tour of the ASI Harmon Avenue plant. During that time, employee’s stopped to share their personal stories of someone in their own family who struggled with addiction, another employee whose children are teenagers with friends who are exposed to this in their schools or other kids, another who had a friend that struggled. Insight on employee’s that had struggled in the past and the toll it took on their work performance and their fellow employees in dealing with it. Many employees expressed that they were very appreciative for the education and the value it had, and thanked the speakers for coming to do the program.

Global Drug Concepts recognizes that **over 70 percent of drug abusers in the U.S. are employed and create very real problems and potential "Safety Risks"**, within their workplace. Preventative education, raising awareness and drug education do make an impact. The education provided equips front line supervisors, managers and employee's to recognize the hazards of drug abuse, if someone is working under the influence or impaired, and the hazards that can create. *In addition, this education helps raise awareness and provides an education that employees can take home and share with their families. It serves well to educate employees and reduce critical safety risks, lost time incidents, provide a valuable education within their organization, and possibly save a life.*

**Al Lombardi, ASI Plant Manager, commented:** *"Mike and Shawn did a great job!! The time goes by quicker than imaginable. I have heard nothing but positive feedback from all of our associates. This is the best testimony I can give, since for the most part my associates are not quick to pass out compliments. I cannot thank you both enough!! It has been nearly a week and all of our associates continue to give nothing but positive feedback regarding the presentation. The time was very well spent. Thanks to Jackie Lewis as well for making it all possible."*



**Pictured L to R: Instructors Shawn Bain and Mike Powell of Global Drug Concepts**



**ASI Harmon Avenue plant employees that participated in the drug training**



***Pictured L to R: Shawn Bain (GDC) Aaron Denny (ASI), Mike Powell (GDC)***



***GDC Speakers: Mike Powell and Shawn Bain discussing current drug trends and drug concealment***