

# 3 Area Manufacturers Receive Grants For Productivity Studies

Three Southern Tier manufacturers have been approved for funds totaling \$22,300 for productivity studies under the state's industrial effectiveness program.

They were identified by Vincent Tese, the state's economic development director, as **Dowcraft Corp. of Falconer**, Cherry Creek Woodcraft of Cherry Creek, and Shadowdancer Inc. of Angelica. Each firm will assume the balance of the cost of its own study.

Tese said the program is designed to help manufacturers in the state meet domestic and foreign competition by improving efficiency and productivity.

"These grants will enable each company to bring in on a cost-effective basis, experts who will work with the companies to analyze their competitive situation and develop action plans for long-term production efficiency," Tese said.

He said up to \$9,900 has been approved for Dowcraft Corp. toward a \$34,373 six-week preliminary productivity assessment to be done by the consulting firm of Ernst & Young, which was selected on a competitive basis.

The project is to involve a thorough evaluation of Dowcraft's business operations and will include recommendations for short and long-term production improvement.

The company has 119 employees and makes movable metal walls and contract metal specialties.

Cherry Creek Woodcraft employs 140 workers in the manufacture of simulated wood and hardwood components for the awards industry, and simulated wood decorative plaques.

The firm has been approved for up to \$7,700 in state assistance as part of the cost of a three-week, \$27,204

preliminary productivity assessment to be done by consultant Ross Associates. It will identify and assign priorities to improvement opportunities in an estimated cost/benefit order.

Shadowdancer is to receive up to \$4,700 as part of the cost of a \$13,540 month-long assessment study by Allegheny Marketing Group, which will concentrate on productivity improvement.

The company employs 25 workers who make folk art collectibles for the giftware market.

William G. Wild, director of Western New York Technology Development Center in Jamestown, worked with all three firms to obtain the awards.

He said the industrial effectiveness program was created by Gov. Mario M. Cuomo's Omnibus Economic Development Act of 1987. Wild said it provides assistance to industrial firms with capable management with potential for future profitability and growth.

The Jamestown-based center is the program's regional representative.