



May 2021

# Tech Times

The Newsletter of the College of Technology -  
Center for Next Generation Manufacturing



[www.nextgenmf.org](http://www.nextgenmf.org)

A National Science Foundation Center of Excellence



## [Dr. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch Recognized During 83rd Annual ITEEA Conference](#)

Outstanding technology and engineering educators and students were honored by the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA) at its 83rd Annual Virtual Conference held March 22-27, 2021.

Classroom educators and programs at the elementary, middle, and high school levels received ITEEA's Teacher Excellence Award and Program Excellence Award, the most prestigious awards given in recognition of Technology and Engineering Education Teachers and Programs. ITEEA also bestowed the Distinguished Technology and Engineering Professional designation on five individuals. The DTE designation is a coveted mark of distinction in technology and engineering education and recognizes educators who have demonstrated a high level of competence and conscientiousness in the field. Recipients included Brandt Hutzel, Emily Loving, Scott A. Warner, John G. Wells, and P. John Williams. Also awarded were **Special Recognition Awards** to the following individuals:

- **Academy of Fellows:** John G. Wells
- **William E. Dugger Exemplary Collaboration Award:** William Havice, DTE and Roger Hill
- **Special Recognition Award:** Karen Wosczyzna-Birch
- **Wilkinson Meritorious Service Award:** Julie Sicks-Panus
- **Lockette/Monroe Humanitarian Award:** Brian Lien and David Worley, DTE
- **Award of Distinction:** Steven Parrott, DTE
- **Prakken Professional Cooperation Award:** Trena L. Wilkerson
- **Public Understanding of Technology and Engineering Education Award:** Virginia R. Jones, DTE
- **Gerhard Salinger Award for Enhancing STEM Education Through Technological/Engineering Design-Based Instruction:** Douglas Hunt, Alex Moll, Matt Peitzman, Thomas Singer, Dr. Mark French, and Debbie French

- **Presidential Citation:** Chuchun Tsai, Matthew Swarts, and Robbie McClellan

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### [Epsilon Pi Tau Gamma Phi Chapter Induction Ceremony](#)

On April 30th, the Gamma Phi Chapter (CT Community Colleges) of the Epsilon Pi Tau (EPT) International Honor Society for Technology held its virtual induction ceremony in partnership with the Alpha Eta (Central CT State University) and Alpha Gamma (Bowling Green State University) Chapters. Over 90 students were inducted as members of the EPT Board of Directors, faculty, administrators, and friends and family joined in the ceremony.

Kellie Payne, Advisor at Asnuntuck Community College's Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, was the honorary inductee this year. She is always working hard to make sure students are aware of opportunities such as scholarships and internships that will help them to be successful in their education and career pathways.

[Click here to watch the ceremony!](#)



### Dr. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch Joins Two Connecticut Advisory Groups

Dr. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch has joined the [Tech Talent Advisory Committee](#) and [Connecticut Technical Education and Career Services Governing Board](#) to represent the Connecticut States Colleges & Universities. Dr. Wosczyzna-Birch is Executive Director of the Connecticut College of Technology and Executive Director and Principal Investigator for the Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing, which is funded by the National Science Foundation. She brings knowledge of national industry and educational trends and best practices in technology disciplines to these groups in the interest of career pathways for students and building Connecticut's technical workforce.



### [Asnuntuck Becomes First American Welding Society Accredited Test Facility In Connecticut](#)

Asnuntuck Community College recently became the first American Welding Society (AWS) accredited test facility (ATF) in Connecticut. Students enrolled in Asnuntuck's welding program will have an opportunity to earn certifications.

According to Richard Munroe, one of two certified instructors at Asnuntuck, the program establishes minimum requirements for test facilities, their personnel, and equipment to qualify for accreditation to test and qualify welders. AWS' website explains that entrusting welder certification to ATF specialists makes good business sense for contractors

and fabricators. Companies are increasingly realizing the shortcomings of self-qualification and are switching to AWS accredited test facilities to test and qualify their welders. ATFs help them save money, improve productivity, and reduce liability by entrusting their welder certification to experts.

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### [Smaller Manufacturers Association Honors NVCC Student of the Year in Virtual Ceremony](#)

The Smaller Manufacturers Association (SMA) of Connecticut presented their annual **Student of the Year** honors to local manufacturing students at their annual meeting held virtually in November 2020. Naugatuck Valley Community College Advanced Manufacturing Technology student, Esteban Martinez, was honored with a merit award for which his name will be placed on a plaque in the College's Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center commemorating this accomplishment.

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### [Naugatuck Valley Community College Presents Annual Manufacturing Awards](#)

NVCC CEO, Lisa Dresdner, Ph.D. joined the faculty and staff of the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center (AMTC) to present the annual Manufacturing Incentive Awards to the program's highest achieving students. "Celebrating the success of our students is a priority at NVCC," Dresdner noted. "It gives me great joy to hear the wonderful and unique strengths of these ten students."

The awards are incentive courses that recognize the top 10 students and provide additional free educational training in the fields of Additive Manufacturing and Solid Works. Ten students qualified for the awards and were recognized at the annual ceremony: Illeana Baez, Tyler Bartlett, Francisco Diaz, Sam Drysdale, Steven Hintz, Brody Hite, Dylan Mitnik, Carlos Novicky, Giovanni Rodriguez, and Ben Sweezey. This mini one-week class is a highly-sought award and students began the incentive courses on January 11 as they are currently on winter break.

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### [Thomaston Savings Bank Awards Scholarship to Naugatuck Valley Community College Manufacturing Student](#)

Carlos Novicky, a student in the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Program at NVCC was selected as the recipient of the annual Thomaston Saving Bank Manufacturing Scholarship Award. Based on academic performance and a recommendation from the NVCC manufacturing instructors, the award recognizes a student who lives in a town serviced by the Bank.

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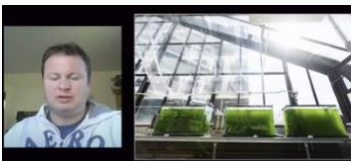


### [NVCC Welcomes Evening Cohort of Manufacturing Students](#)

Naugatuck Valley Community College CEO, Lisa Dresdner, Ph.D., faculty, and staff welcomed the evening cohort of Advanced Manufacturing Technology students to campus for the spring semester. CEO Dresdner expressed her enthusiasm for this program and invited the students to share their reasons for enrolling. The primary theme was jobs, whether through a change of career or entering the workforce for the first time. Students explained that their interest in manufacturing emerged from apprenticeships, internships, workforce readiness, and anecdotes of friends who had graduated from the program to go onto successful careers in manufacturing. Dr. Dresdner summarized the theme, "We're excited to welcome you to NVCC and into the Advanced Manufacturing Technology program, because it represents so much potential not only for you, but also for our communities when you enter the workforce!"

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### [Middlesex Community College Engineering Students Collaborate Online with French University](#)

During the Fall 2020 semester, students from Middlesex Community College (MxCC) and [Université Paris-Saclay Polytech](#) in France studied together virtually in an 11-week CT CLICKs course module called E<sup>3</sup>: Engineering Expertise Exchange.

The module was an integral part of the Introduction to Engineering course taught by MxCC engineering professor Lin Lin, PhD, and the English for Engineering course taught by Polytech English professor Liz Sagar.

Nancy Ruther, EdD, principal of Gazelle International, helped develop the partnerships between the schools as part of a four-year international initiative called CT CLICKs with the Connecticut Community Colleges. The initiative was led by the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) College of Technology (COT) and its National Science

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Foundation funded Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing (RCNGM).

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[Scholarship Application Open for Naugatuck Valley Community College's Danbury Advanced Manufacturing Technology Certificate Program](#)

Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC) is taking scholarship applications now for the August 26<sup>th</sup> start Advanced Manufacturing Certificate Program at NVCC Danbury. This is for FULL Scholarship, all tuition paid education opportunity being provided by Linde.

Please click here for the [scholarship application and detailed information](#). They are having two [Zoom sessions](#) this month for applicants to find out more about the program.

- All Tuition expenses are included.
- Textbooks for all Courses, Materials and Technical Equipment Package are included.
- Hands-on access to state of the art manufacturing technology in preparation of employment.
- Graduates earn 31 college credits in two semesters towards an Associates Degree in Technology Studies.
- Upon completion will have earned 2 certificates:
  - Certificate in Fundamentals of Machine Technology
  - Certificate in Advanced Manufacturing Machine Technology
- The program in manufacturing prepares individuals for “hands-on” positions in the manufacturing sector as inspectors, machine operators, CNC machinists and more.

**Attend a Linde Scholarship Zoom Information Session**

**This is an opportunity for interested students to learn more about the program and ask questions.**

Register to attend one of the Zoom session dates at [www.nv.edu/linde](http://www.nv.edu/linde)

May 13 – 5:00 to 6:00pm

May 20 – 5:00 to 6:00pm

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[CLICKs Virtual Exchange Update Fall 2020](#)



### [Save-the-Date: Virtual Summer Teacher Workshop - July 12th - 16th](#)

The Connecticut College of Technology's Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing, a National Science Foundation Center of Excellence, will present the Engineering & Technology Challenge Program's 2021 Summer Teachers' Workshop. This program will be held through an online platform.

This exciting four-day workshop provides the opportunity for you to connect with your peers from across the United States in an online workshop. This program is very highly rated by all the teachers and faculty who have participated in the previous in-person version of the program. The workshop will help you learn how to instruct your students in developing essential teambuilding skills as well as providing technology related experiences to help you integrate your learning into your STEM classroom and lab environment. The teambuilding, professional, and technical skills presented in the Program are designed to be directly applicable to your classroom.

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## Upcoming Events

College of Technology Site Coordinators Meeting (Virtual) - May 14, 2021

Summer Teacher Workshop (Virtual) - July 12 - 16, 2021

High Impact Technology Exchange Conference (HI TEC) (Virtual) - July 21 - 22, 2021

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#### **Our mailing address is:**

College of Technology-Center for Next Generation Manufacturing  
271 Scott Swamp Rd  
Farmington, CT 06032-3324