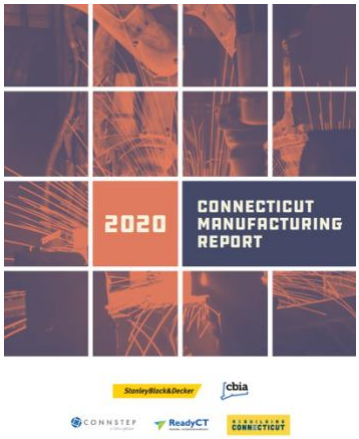
Tech Times

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

November 2020

COT Cited as Prominent Source for Manufacturing Labor in Connecticut

The Governor's Workforce Council (GWC) recently released their Strategic Plan on Workforce Development for the State of Connecticut. The plan provides a set of recommendations to build Connecticut's workforce while highlighting best practices that are already in place and can be expanded or used as models for new programs. Advanced manufacturing is one of Connecticut's strongest industry sectors and is a focus of the GWC. In the GWC's Manufacturing Committee report, the College of Technology is cited as a prominent source of manufacturing labor with Connecticut.



COT-RCNGM Cited as Key Stakeholder for Advanced Manufacturing Education in CBIA Report

The Connecticut Business & Industry Association recently released their 2020 Connecticut Manufacturing Report. The report provides and overview of the manufacturing landscape in Connecticut including the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Other topics covered include policy recommendations and workforce development. A listing of Key Stakeholders, including the College of Technology & Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing, is also including, allowing readers to explore organizations that are at the forefront of developing the advanced manufacturing workforce in Connecticut.

Asnuntuck Community College (ACC) Becomes One of the First ISO 9001:2015 Certified Community Colleges in the United States

AMTC Director Frank Gulluni and ACC President Dr. James P. Lombella first envisioned the AMTC becoming ISO 9001 certified in 2014 after the AMTC received its credentials from NIMS. Many factors drove the leadership at Asnuntuck Community College to seek certification for the institution, including:

- Enhancing relationships with aerospace and other industries.
- Marketing initiatives to enroll more students in the AMTC program.
- Increasing student job placement percentage through the Advisory Board Process.
- Implementing a quality management system to improve AMTC processes.
- Improving systematic flow of documented information.
- Standardizing and aligning processes consistent with the leadership vision.
- Standardizing course syllabi and teaching methods between and among instructors.

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180 Skills Online Manufacturing Program

The College of Technology and Center for Next Generation Manufacturing is partnering with the Governor's Workforce Council to provide online learning opportunities in manufacturing for unemployed workers in Connecticut through the 180 Skills platform. 180 Skills provides short-term online skills training for the manufacturing sector. Their library of skills training was developed in partnership with manufacturers. The initiative was developed in response to the increase in unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Tunxis and College of Technology Student Receives NSF Award

Connecticut College of Technology student Dennis Tekyi, who attends Tunxis Community College, received a National Science Foundation (NSF) ATE Student/Alumni Award during the 27th National Advanced Technological Education Principal Investigators Conference 2020, held virtually Oct. 19-23.
Tekyi was one of 30 students from the United States to receive the award, which required an application process and recommendation. As part of the award, he created a poster for a "Tour Bot" project, an automated robot that can travel around a college campus to help students with wayfinding and information. The project was on display at the Student Poster Session for conference attendees to view, and will remain on virtual display for three months.

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Connecticut Students Receive National Science Foundation Award

Five students from Connecticut Community Colleges were awarded the National Science Foundation (NSF) Student/Alumni Award as part of the invitation-only virtual NSF Advanced Technological Education (ATE) Principal Investigators Conference. This annual conference which is held in partnership with the American Association of Community Colleges, provides the opportunity for grantees under the NSF ATE Program to disseminate the results of their projects and network with other grantees.
In total, only thirty students from across the United States were chosen for the award, reflecting their hard work in their programs, which receive support from the NSF ATE Program. These students were invited to participate in the conference as well as a student-only industry networking session. The highlight of the student program was the poster session where each student was able to highlight a project they worked on and answer questions from other attendees.
Connecticut Community College student awardees:

- Renee Dunbar, Northwestern Connecticut Community College
- Kit Fitch, Northwestern Connecticut Community College
- Jocelyn Garcia, Gateway Community College/Central Connecticut State University
- Benjamin Nnko, Gateway Community College/University of Bridgeport
- Dennis Tekyi, Tunxis Community College

Benjamin Nnko was also invited to speak on the *ATE Student Spotlight Panel - Resilience and Innovation*, highlighting the experiences of students on their education and career paths during the time of COVID-19.

Board of Regents for Higher Education Curriculum Alignment Charge for the College of Technology

The Connecticut State Colleges & Universities (CSCU) system is preparing for a singly-accredited community college, the CT State Community College (CSCC). The College of Technology (COT), which oversees the Engineering Science and Technology Studies A.S. degree programs and certificates for all twelve CSCU community colleges and transfer agreements with ten public and private partner universities, has been charged by the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) to review all of its programs and courses to ensure they are aligned among the community colleges. The COT has been a model for systemwide curriculum and stackable credentials since it began in 1995 in response to a legislative mandate. Completing the alignment process is a requirement for all programs that that will be offered at the new CSCC.

Tunxis Community College receives National Science Foundation Award for High School Technology Program

Tunxis Community College in Farmington and the College of Technology have received a $600,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for the Building Career Interest in Computer Science through Advanced Real-World Technology (CICSTART) Program.
High school juniors and seniors will participate in activities to further develop their professional skills and technical skills. Teambuilding, leadership, coding drones, 3D design, technical writing, and math activities taught by CT Community College faculty will teach students skills that are in demand in the advanced manufacturing industry.

CICSTART will begin in spring of 2021 with two Saturday Programs. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, each program will be held online over five Saturdays. Once college campuses are able to open again, the Saturday Program will be hosted in-person at Tunxis Community College.

Apprenticeships and Work-Based Learning

College of Technology and Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing Executive Director, Dr. Karen Wosczyna-Birch, is a member of the Connecticut Apprenticeship Committee, which was established under Public Act No. 19-68 to analyze current apprenticeship programs and make sure they are meeting workforce needs. The Committee is also charged with updating its

collection of resources to inform students, parents, educators, and school counselors of careers in STEM and other major industries in Connecticut.

Representatives from the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system, including Dr. Karen Wosczyna-Birch, were invited to become members of the National Governors Association's and American Association of Community Colleges' Reskilling and Recovery Network: Public/Private Partnerships. The network currently has 21 states as members and meets biweekly to share best practices to help workers succeed during the pandemic and in the post-pandemic economy. The most recent webinar reviewed best practices for apprenticeships at institutions across the United States.

NVCC Welcomes Manufacturing Students Back to Campus

Naugatuck Valley Community College CEO, Lisa Dresdner, Ph.D., faculty, and staff welcomed two cohorts of Advanced Manufacturing Technology students back to campus for the fall semester. CEO Dresdner expressed her enthusiasm for the opportunity this program represents: "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!" In its ninth year, the Advanced Manufacturing Technology program boasts 100% job placement and offers internship opportunities and incentive awards. Dr. Dresdner described the Incentive Awards that are available to manufacturing students in the program: the top 5 students of each cohort who meet the criteria of maintaining a B average or better, have excellent attendance- both online and on-campus, and great performance on the shop floor are awarded the opportunity to take free, additional training in Additive Manufacturing and Solid Works in the winter session. This mini one-week class is a highly-sought award.

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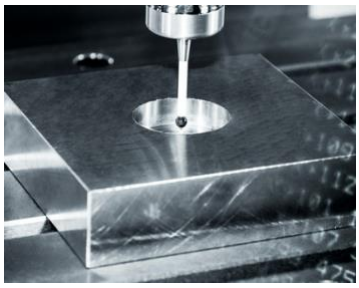
Northwestern CT Releases Data Science Program Promotional Video

Professor Crystal Wiggins from Northwestern CT Community College recently released a video on YouTube explaining the data science programs at the Connecticut Community Colleges and what careers they can lead to.



MCC Upgrades Metrology Lab Facilities with Support of Federal Perkins Grant

Manchester Community College is updating equipment used in its manufacturing programs with funding received as part of a federal Perkins grant totaling nearly $240,000.
Funds from the grant will cover the cost to purchase and install tooling and software for the college's metrology lab. For effective workforce training, upgrades to hands-on learning environments are vital because today's advanced manufacturing sector is continually changing and increasing in technological sophistication. MCC courses are dedicated to hands-on learning in an environment that simulates the workplace, according to Tracy Ariel, director of precision manufacturing.

"The equipment enhances student attainment of nationally recognized industry credentials with the National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS), as well as helps ensure options for students interested in manufacturing careers or in pursuing further higher education in engineering and manufacturing fields," she said.

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Connecticut Manufacturing Day

Manufacturing Day (MFG Day) is held nationally on the first Friday in October every year with events continuing throughout the month to highlight modern manufacturing and showcase the career opportunities available in advanced manufacturing. This year, MFG Day took place on October 2nd and Connecticut had its own kickoff to start the month of manufacturing events. Watch the CT MFG Day Kickoff that was hosted by Asnuntuck Community College's Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center and included a Manufacturing Day 2020 Panel with Ari Santiago, IT Direct and host of Made in America with Ari Santiago podcasts; Colin Cooper, Connecticut's Chief Manufacturing Officer; Dr. James Lombella, North-West Regional President, CT State Colleges & Universities; Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, Commissioner of Education; and industry employers and employees. Learn more about manufacturing through manufacturing events, the Virtual CT MFG Fair, and manufacturing resources. Contact your local Connecticut Community College to learn more about educational opportunities in advanced manufacturing.

College of Technology Hosts Summer Teacher Workshop

The Connecticut College of Technology's Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing, a National Science Foundation Center of Excellence, hosted the Engineering Technology Challenge Program's 2020 Summer Teacher Virtual Workshop. Past workshops have been held in-person, but there was a shift to a virtual yet still hands-on workshop due to the COVID-19 pandemics this year.

This exciting four-day workshop provided fourteen high school and community college educators from across the United States the opportunity to connect with peers during the online workshop. The program has been very highly rated by all the teachers and faculty who have participated in the program over the years.

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Smart Manufacturing Workshop Applications - Deadline: Nov. 16th

The CT College of Technology and the Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing, will be hosting
a virtual Smart Manufacturing Workshop in partnership with Motlow Community College and Tennessee Tech.
This workshop is made possible through funding from the National Science Foundation. Participants will receive a mini-drone and a $400 stipend upon completion of the workshop.
Dates: December 17th - 18th, 2020
Location: Virtual
Workshop Website and Application:
https://sites.google.com/view/nsfsmart/home
Application Deadline: Monday, November 16th, 2020 11:59 PM

Announcements

- Middlesex Community College receives $1million to build new 5000 square foot Advanced Manufacturing Techı Center on the Grounds of Vinal Technical High School
- Manchester Community College partners with Manchester High School to Create Pipeline Program in Precision Manufacturing
- Manchester Community College hosts CNC II lab

Upcoming Events

College of Technology Site Coordinators Meetings (Virtual)
November 13, 2020
December 11, 2020
January 29, 2021
February 19, 2021
March 12, 2021
April 9, 2021
May 14, 2021

The Connecticut College of Technology (COT) is a consortium of all 12 CT Community Colleges and ten public and private universities that was formed through CT legislation in 1995 to establish seamless pathways in engineering and technology. Among its goals are to bring together educators and industry, and to be responsive to workforce needs in Connecticut. It also provides seamless career pathways for students to earn certificates, associate of science and bachelor of science degrees in engineering and technology disciplines, with no loss of credit upon transfer. Since 2004, the COT has received four rounds of National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education funding for the Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing (RCNGM) and Next Generation Manufacturing Resource Center (NGMRC) as well as additional project grants.