



Advanced Manufacturing Center



HOUSATONIC
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

AMC in Year Two

Under the guidance of Connecticut's *Board of Regents* for Higher Education, HCC is one of four community colleges statewide receiving competitive grant funding to construct and operate an Advanced Manufacturing Center (AMC). Designed specifically to meet labor demands of southwestern regional manufacturers, the program offers one-year certification addressing all facets of the industry from machining fundamentals and operation through automated manufacturing and lean practices. The Class of 2014 comprises students of varying ages and backgrounds, all working hard to learn the skills necessary for employment in the industry. Support from our regional manufacturers has been essential in developing curriculum relevant to local markets, targeting those skills best fitting company needs. The AMC enjoys productive relationships with trade associations (such as the NHMA) and individual businesses who can benefit as customers of our final product...a well-trained, capable graduate. Join with us as we serve the Next Generation of manufacturing in Connecticut. This is an idea whose time has come!

Meet the Boss



Program Director Mike Gugger has enjoyed a long career in the Manufacturing Industry. His personal journey took Mike from the shop floor to community college, a BS in Engineering and an MBA. He has vast knowledge of the industry coming from years of experience. Under his leadership the AMC delivered its inaugural class in May, sending 34 skilled graduates into local companies.

Modifications to the admissions process, expanded industrial partnerships and increased emphasis on CNC operations have been implemented for the Class of 2014 with an expectation of advanced skills for graduates. Mike works closely with an Advisory Committee comprised of leaders in Manufacturing, Chambers of Commerce and State/local agencies who provide substantive input into curriculum development, program delivery and future planning. Together, they are refining the AMC to create an educational offering which is truly responsive to the needs of area business. With your support, this model will provide a skilled labor force...ready to work.



Nuts and bolts

Local manufacturers have signed on board to guide and direct operations by serving on AMC Advisory Committees for planning and implementation. We thank Ken Lisk (PEP Lacey), Kris Lorch (Alloy Engineering), Kathy Saint (Schwerdtle Manufacturing), Paula Chapla (Sikorsky), Chris Dolny (Moore Tool), Paul Timpanelli (BRBC), Christina Bartucca (Work Force Alliance) Jeff and Stephanie McCathron (BRI Metal Works), Paul Hoffman and Sue Baum (Orange Research), Tom Auray (Bridgeport Fittings), Dave Cremin (Straton Industries), representatives from New Haven Manufacturers Association and The Workplace, along with college staff for their commitment to the project. The AMC, of course, always encourages for additional input from industry.

Happenings and events



HCCs Manufacturing Summit held this summer had strong participation from area industry, legislators, State agencies, and local community leaders all focused upon strengthening Connecticut's economy through increased business opportunity.



The New Haven Manufacturers Association celebrated their 100th anniversary at HCC in September, featuring a *Cliff Clavin* (remember him) double among the many attendees who toasted the NHMA's proven track record of promoting the state's most value-added industry.



The Advanced Manufacturing Center initiated its Class of 2014 on August 28th, anticipating in the next generation of graduates who will complete their Level II certification in May. This is an exceptionally talented group of students who are working hard to become capable machinists. Thirty five hours of class and shop work per week keeps them very busy.



With a little help from some friends the current class has been able to tour local companies. Our thanks to Hubbell Heaters, Moore Tool and Lacey Manufacturing for providing an opportunity for this group to have an up close orientation to what is happening in the industry.



Internships are next on the horizon, as students who are *making the grade* will have an opportunity to work for companies on a limited basis. As Mike Gugger describes it, *this is a real chance for employers to kick the tires of potential workers*. Last year we found that 90% of students placed in an internship were hired by their sponsoring company.

Those interested in becoming part of the *Next Generation* of manufacturing in Connecticut should contact Bill Griffin (203 332-5056) at HCC directly for more information.

Schools, adult education programs or community agencies can arrange a brief presentation and facility tour by contacting Gene LaPorta at 203 231-4815 or windyacres2@snet.net.