

Fall 2014



HOUSATONIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Advanced Manufacturing Center



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COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Class of 2015 begins

Thanks to a strong recruiting effort combined with greater recognition of student successes, our AMC class enrolled 42 new students. This group was once again vetted through an expanded admissions process, which included additional math testing, conceptualization and measures of mechanical ability. Given their performance, we have a most talented crew on board. That's not the only good news; the Class of 2015 boasts 7 ladies, all eager to become your future work force. Preliminary indications from the shop floor have been quite enthusiastic as this class settles in to a routine of 35+ hours of instruction each week. A grueling schedule no doubt, but absolutely necessary to deliver on the promise of a trained (not experienced) graduate capable of hitting the ground running come mid-May. Keep your eyes on these guys and girls during the year by becoming part of what is happening in the Advanced Manufacturing Center. Our staff invites you to schedule a visit, maybe offer a specialized lecture or have us to your company for a facility tour. It's all part of making sure the next generation of skilled workers are ready to take their place in Connecticut industry.

Success Stories

The graduating class of 2014 enjoyed a great reception from local industry. To date, 96.2% of this group are gainfully employed, with only one *lone ranger* deciding to wait a bit before entering the labor market. There is lots of appreciation going around to companies like Lacey Manufacturing, Moore Tool, Holo-Krome, Barden Corp, Alinabal, HEIM Bearings, Alloy Engineering, Specialty Tool, Preferred Precision, McMellon Brothers, Precision Sensors, Wendon Corp, Northeast Electronics, Polyflon, Fairfield U, Rowtech, Stevens Manufacturing and others who stepped up to the plate as our industry partners. Both student and employer feedback has been truly exceptional. Lives have been changed, as manufacturers learn that these guys really do have the skills and the heart for the long haul. Graduates have stated "*I got more than I expected from the program*" and "*the program helped land me a good job which greatly improved my life*". Read what they and their employers have to say on the HCC website or attachments forwarded periodically. Then grab a glove and get in the game...this is for all the marbles!



Meet some new staff

Rich Dupont has become the Interim Program Director for the AMC.

Kim Wood has been appointed as Recruitment and Retention Specialist,

Paula Chapla, new full-time instructor; Hayes Moore as Lab Assistant

Dave D'Aniello, Career Readiness instructor.

Things you should know



Meet the new kids on the block. Eager and ready to take up the challenges of becoming part of manufacturing's future in our state, the Class of 2015 posed for their first formal photo. From there it was down to hard work, learning the theory and practice which will prepare them to enter the workforce in 9 months. They plan to be ready!

The AMC has been reorganized to provide simultaneous instruction for two cohorts on a daytime basis. While this does make for long days, it also follows the lead of our Advisory Committee, which is hoping to make the AMC accessible for even more advanced programs in the evening. Mike Gugger has done a yeoman's job of scheduling, which should deliver greater capacity as the program evolves. This potentially means additional training in Tool and Die, Metrology and CNC programming on a part-time basis.

NIMS certification has been incorporated into the program, as AMC instructors spent some of their summer being trained to meet several standards for instruction and student evaluation. This will allow students to graduate with industry recognized credentials.

Level I & II certificates have been merged into an overall program certification separated by semester. Curricular modifications have also been made to accommodate NIMS and committee recommendations for targeted instruction in CNC operation.

The Southwest Manufacturing Consortium has been established under the guidance of Chris Caruso and Veasna Rouen. Their main goals involve workforce development, marketing and outreach, and legislative initiatives impacting the manufacturing industry.

The Kick-Off dinner/gala for the **Manufacturing Hall of Fame** is set for Tuesday October 7th. This effort will establish permanent testimony to those local, regional and eventually nationwide manufacturers who drive our economy. Those interested in attending should contact Dan Wisniewski dan@ideaengineusa.com or Chris Carollo CCarollo@hcc.commnet.edu for more information.