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HOUSATONIC  
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## Taking our show... on the road



Thanks to some good friends, AMC students in the Class of 2015 have had opportunities to tour local industry, finding out up close and personal what the manufacturing environment in Connecticut is really all about. So far we have visited Lacey Manufacturing, Moore Tool, Holo-Krome and CiDRA, each time bringing new insights and a sense of perspective to the varied production processes at work. Best of all, it translates perfectly into what is being taught each day, making instruction that much more meaningful. When these students graduate, they will already understand what it is they have gotten themselves into. That goes a long way to creating potential employees. We appreciate the support our industry partners provide.

The AMC has also had some notable speakers (too many to list) this semester, delivering the manufacturing message; particularly advice on workplace behaviors required for sustained employment. Once again all of these help the cause, as student perception of real world situations is reinforced consistently. The whole idea is to create a skilled and ready workforce for regional industry. If you would like to join in the effort just give me a shout at...  
[elaporta@housatonic.edu](mailto:elaporta@housatonic.edu)



### Making the grade

With first semester rapidly drawing to a close, instructors in the AMC have been quite pleased with the academic progress made by our latest class. Divided into two cohorts, this group of 40 students have done the diligence thus far; keeping faithful to the long hours (35 per week, plus homework) and considerable demands of a rigorous course of study. Most of all, they have that *spark*; meaning a tangible passion for working in the industry. They are busy and excited to be part of what is happening in Connecticut manufacturing...and their grades show it. Honors level performance has become commonplace, with overall student averages hovering above a **B**. That's not bad, given everything they need to learn before graduation. Manufacturers are invited to stop by and check out the talent for themselves. Once second semester starts the work intensifies and competition for internship positions begins. Read on and become a part of it all.

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# Advanced Manufacturing Center

## Internships...read on

You may have read the success stories resulting from placement of last year's graduates. If you haven't yet, please check out this link <http://www.housatonic.edu/MFG/stories.asp> to our page on the HCC website. There's a lot of information available to illustrate exactly what has been happening at the Center, complete with employer comments.

Graduate placement begins with opportunities for *students in good standing* (B-level grades, strong attendance and punctuality, all projects up to date and positive recommendations from instructors) to spend Fridays working at local companies. Internships maintain a twofold purpose; first it provides students a real-world experience in the industry and second, it gives employers a means to conduct a *long* interview. This constitutes a low-risk chance to *road test* potential candidates before hiring. It does require that companies think their hiring needs down the road a bit, but that's all part of planning for future productivity and success.

Practically speaking, most of our students placed into an internship have been offered full-time employment after graduation. So, I ask that you seriously think about participating in the program. Internships will begin sometime in mid-February, giving those interested time to check out our talented Class of 2015. Expectations are that eligible students would submit resumes and be interviewed in similar fashion to any new hire. Therefore, employers are in the driver's seat in terms of selection. This is truly a win-win proposition which many area businesses have found an effective, efficient way to build their workforce. Get back to me if you would like to get involved.

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## News and notes...

The Connecticut Advanced Manufacturing Initiative (CAMI) has begun, as a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Labor was awarded to our state this fall. The program provides \$15 million in funding for expanded and additional training of our future manufacturing workforce. HCC will participate in the grant, allowing for advanced training options beyond our current capacity. This is clearly good news for industry, especially when combined with programs such as the Connecticut Manufacturing Innovation Fund (CMIF), CCAT Manufacturing Technical Assistance Program, the Manufacturing Reinvestment Act and Step-Up.

The Advanced Manufacturing Center as partnered with Step-Up, can actually provide local employers with beyond entry-level skilled workers, while subsidizing initial salaries up to \$12,000. When combined with AMC internships, that means companies can preview their potential candidates prior to hire and have salaries supplemented during the first six months of employment. To my mind that creates an incredible incentive for industry to take advantage of two great programs supporting Connecticut Manufacturing. There really is a lot going on these days...don't miss out on the action!



And of course the holidays are also upon us, as Black Friday launches the annual Christmas frenzy. All of us at the AMC wish everyone enjoys a wonderful Thanksgiving and a peaceful season. Personally, I'm hoping for some internship offers in my stocking this year.

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