

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

TECH UPDATE

NEWS FROM THE APPLIED SCIENCE AND
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

www.monroeccc.edu

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FALL 2025



**Fueling the Future
Building Careers
Growing the Trades
Leading Technology**

NEW PROGRAMS

MCCC partners with the MCISD to offer dual-credit technology program for high school students

Monroe County Community College (MCCC) has partnered with the Monroe County Intermediate School District (MCISD) to offer a dual-credit, two-semester **Precision Machining Technology Program** for high school students. This program, which began in Fall 2023, allows students to earn both high school career technology education (CTE) credit and 12 college credits.



Virtual Design and Construction Certificate

The Construction Management Technology-Virtual Design and Construction certificate program seamlessly blends online and face-to-face learning, preparing students to utilize a unique combination of traditional and cutting-edge approaches to construction and building information modeling, which is the holistic process of creating and managing information for a built asset. It is tailored for success in construction and project management while pioneering innovative practices through a flexible course delivery system. There are about 22,000 people employed in this field in Michigan, which is up by 12 percent since 2021. The field is expected to grow by 4 percent through 2028, and there are about 1,000 job openings annually.

Mechatronics Technician Certificate

Mechatronics Technician is a certificate program that prepares students for entry-level employment in careers as technicians in automation maintenance, mechatronics, research and development, and testing. This unique integration of mechanical systems with electronics and software creates more functional and efficient products and processes applicable in dozens of industries and technical fields. This field grew by 1.2 percent from 2021-24, and the job market will remain stable through 2028. There are about 800 individuals employed in this field in Michigan and 70 openings annually.



DTE ENERGY'S CHIEF NUCLEAR OFFICER DISCUSSES FUTURE OF INDUSTRY DURING NUCLEAR TECH PROGRAM OPEN HOUSE

Earlier this year, DTE Energy's senior vice president and chief nuclear officer, Peter Dietrich, was on hand at MCCC's Nuclear Tech Program annual open house. He discussed the future of the nuclear energy industry with current and prospective students, parents, industry professionals and interested community members in attendance.



MCCC's Career Technology Center is the home of the Nuclear Engineering Technology program and the Enrico Fermi Atomic Power Plant (Fermi I) Historical Exhibit. MCCC and DTE Energy partnered to create MCCC's Nuclear Engineering Technology program 14 years ago. The program was established in response to increasing demand for highly skilled professionals in the nuclear power industry in the region, including DTE's Fermi 2 nuclear power plant.

"We use a learning approach that emphasizes both theory and hands-on skills to work in the technical environment of the nuclear industry," said Marty Dubois, an associate professor of mechanical engineering technology at MCCC and the instructional lead for the NUET program. "DTE employees were instrumental in creating the curriculum for the program and several instructors from DTE provide most of the direct instruction."

The associate of applied science degree with specialization in nuclear engineering technology at MCCC enables students to seek employment as nuclear engineering technicians in the nuclear power industry. Graduates of the program are prepared for entry-level employment as electrical technicians, instrumentation and control technicians and mechanical technicians.



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Dean Kerste, mechanical design technology instructor, retires after 31 years

After 31 years of dedicated service to the students and future manufacturing and technology professionals and leaders of the future, Dr. Dean Kerste has retired.

As one of MCCC's best and longest serving full-time faculty, the decision to retire was not an easy one, according to Kerste.

Always the consummate professional, Kerste worked diligently to keep his program current and engaging, and always went above and beyond for his students. During his tenure at MCCC, he rebuilt the Mechanical Design Technology program from its early days of board drafting by hand to the use of modern tools like 3D CAD and simulation programs, incorporating technology like 3D printing and 3D scanning. He always strived to expose students to the types of technology they would use professionally in their chosen field and future employment.



While his daily presence on campus in the ASET Division and the halls of the CTC will be greatly missed, his legacy will live on through the impact that he made at MCCC and among his professional and teaching peers.

FRIENDLY FORD DONATION & PARTICIPATION AT FAIR

Once again, Friendly Ford Lincoln, of Monroe and Ford Motor Company, donated two vehicles for use by students in MCCC's Automotive Service Technology program. In addition, students and faculty of MCCC were invited to participate in the dealership's annual display during the Monroe County Fair to share information about the college's programs.



Several Join ASET Division Team

Dr. Talha Iqbal, associate professor of electrical engineering technology



Dr. Iqbal brings valuable industry and academic experience and a desire to continue to strengthen MCCC's program offerings and

allied in electrical engineering technology and programs within the division. Prior to joining the faculty at MCCC he served as a graduate teaching assistant at West Virginia University for seven years where he also earned a master's degree and doctorate in electrical engineering, and as power electronics engineer intern at Lucid Motors in Newark, CA. Iqbal completed his undergraduate studies in electrical engineering, earning his bachelor of science degree from University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan in 2013. Prior to immigrating to the United States, he worked as a management training officer for PepsiCo and a lab engineer at Lahore University of Management Sciences in Punjab, Pakistan.

Since his tenure began at MCCC, Iqbal has been involved expanding lab resources (see related article about new equipment) and enhancing the course curricula for electrical engineering to better align with industry needs, participates with other ASET faculty in professional development activities such as Trends 2024 conference and community learning opportunities and events, such as X-Tech (see related article

on recent events) and works closely with those students planning to pursue higher education goals at several four-year universities. In fact, Iqbal was recently nominated for the Outstanding Faculty Award, recognizing excellence in teaching, dedication to student success, and contributions to the college community.

Rodney Harper, mechanical design technology instructor



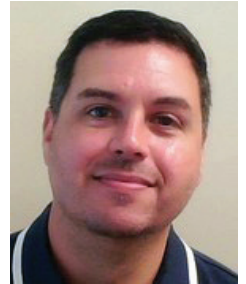
After joining MCCC during Winter 2024 semester as the temporary full-time instructor for the mechanical design program,

the ASET Division added Harper as full-time faculty to teach in the program.. He is a former student and graduate of MCCC and also taught for the college as an adjunct several years ago. Harper returns to MCCC after more than a decade of industry experience in the field of mechanical design and 3D CAD software training.

Having worked alongside recently retired full-time instructor Dean Kerste (see related article), Harper is one of only few people in the state of Michigan to hold the highest-level SolidWorks certification (CSWE), and has been a regular presenter at many SE MI SolidWorks Users Group events hosted by MCCC. Together with current faculty and staff, he is prepared and excited to re-invigorate the Mechanical Design Technology program, working to update and align the curriculum to meet industry needs.

Levi Good, apprenticeship coordinator

Levi Good joined MCCC in August 2025 as the apprentice coordinator. Prior to joining MCCC he served as director of



apprenticeship programs and director of skilled trades and apprenticeship programs at Owens Community College, Perrysburg, OH, since 2020.

While at OCC he had oversight of more than 60 company sponsored apprenticeship programs with more than 40 different employers and 22 union apprenticeship program. He worked with both employers, students and other stakeholders to ensure compliance with institutional policies for all partners and worked diligently to raise awareness of the opportunities available and continuous improvement projects creating a quality experience for all.

Prior to his role at OCC, he was director of workforce solutions at Kellogg Community College, Battle Creek MI from 2015 – 2020. His responsibilities included oversight of contracted services for business and industry, career and technical education job-training programs for adults, at-risk youth, dual-enrolled high school students, young adults and grant administration for funded programs.

Levi holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Management from Ohio Northern University and a Master of Business Administration from Bluffton University.

NEW EQUIPMENT

Equipment donation to Manufacturing Lab

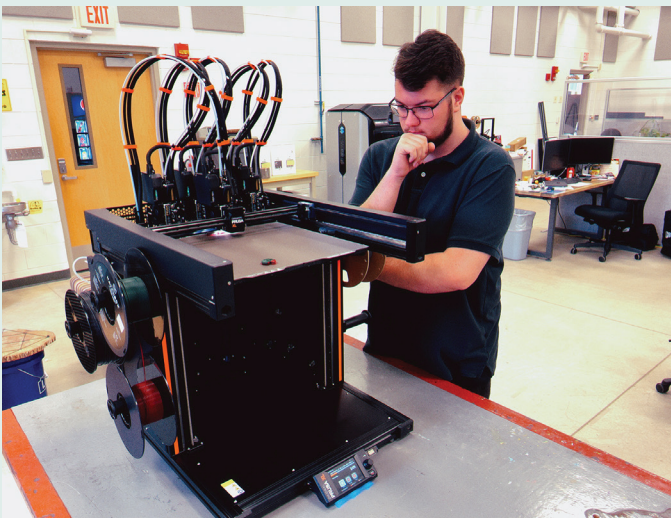
Two new TRAK Machines, a TRL 1630RX Toolroom Lathe and a TMC5 Toolroom Machining Center, have recently been added to the CNC lab at MCCC through the generosity of Rich and Marion Leonhard. Rich, the president of TRAK Machine Tools – Southwestern Industries, Inc., and his wife purchase equipment each year to donate to deserving schools based on performance and capabilities.



“The machine tool industry has been very kind to me and my family,” Leonhard said. “This donation program is our way of giving a little back and promoting manufacturing in the USA.” The donation was made possible through the singular effort of Manufacturing Technology program instructor Troy Elliott.

“This donation will have a huge impact on the manufacturing program at MCCC,” said Elliott. “The equipment will be used in all the manufacturing classes, giving our students a greater knowledge of modern manufacturing technology.”

New equipment benefits both Makerspace and MTDC program



The mechanical technology design program recently added a new Peel 3 3D scanner, which will be used for reverse engineering, and allows a user to take detailed 3D scans of objects ranging from small items (around the size of a chess piece) with accurate detail down to roughly 1mm, all the way up to very large objects (the size of a car, approximately). The scans can then be imported into CAD software for measurements and modifications if necessary, and can then be 3D printed or machined from the 3D models.

In addition to the scanner, a Prusa XL multi-color/multi-material 3D printer – now the largest and fastest 3D printer on campus – was acquired. The five independent print heads allow up to five different materials per print, for a mix of

higher-strength materials with flexible materials, and features a dedicated soluble material for support if needed.

Both the Peel 3D scanner and the Prusa XL 3D printer are housed in the Makerspace in the CTC. While the new 3D scanner and multi-head 3D printer will be extensively used by students in the Rapid Prototyping and MTDC Capstone courses, these tools will also be extremely useful for anyone looking to replicate or prototype something and are available for use by anyone who might be interested in learning how to use them. Makerspace coordinator, Mike Reaume, is available to train anyone interested in utilizing any of the equipment, tools and resources of the Makerspace. *(see related article)*

Equipment for Electronics Lab made possible through grant funds

Two table-top units were purchased with grant funds to help students learn electrical circuit conditions through computer interface simulations and troubleshooting. The UniTrain Systems (supplied by Lucas-Nuelle) and Amatrol85-MT5 Motor Control Training System for the classroom with greatly enhance student learning in the Electronics Lab at MCCC.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MCCC will host X-TECH in October once again

Plans are underway for the ASET faculty and staff to once again host X-TECH, MCCC's Applied Technology and Apprenticeships Pathway Exploration Day in late October. This annual event, now in, its 26th year, provides the community with the opportunity to learn about MCCC's pathway options for gaining real world, hands-on experience using cutting edge technology for careers in scientific technology fields like manufacturing, automotive and nuclear energy or as a member of an engineering team and more.

Attendees, including future students of any age, business and community leaders, employers, educators, those interested in making a career change and more, will have the opportunity to tour the various labs in the Career Technology Center.



In addition, the MCCC Makerspace, will also be open for those who are interested in learning more about how the college is growing opportunities for the community to explore and experiment with different technology. In addition, several other universities will be in attendance to share information with those interested in transfer opportunities and pursuing bachelor degrees in similar technical areas. (See related features on Makerspace and list of all ASET Division programs at MCCC)

Fifth Apprenticeship Readiness Cohort being offered in October

In what has become one of the more successful new initiatives at MCCC, more than 50 students have already successfully completed the Apprenticeship Readiness Program offered by MCCC through a grant.



Apprenticeships Building America (ABA) is a grant awarded to WIN/SEMCA (Workforce Intelligence Network and Southeast Michigan Community Alliance, funded by US Department of Labor, of which MCCC is a subgrantee.

In response to increasing demand for skilled trades professionals and interest from prospective employers and skilled trades professionals, a fifth cohort of the four-day Apprenticeship Readiness Program will be offered October 3 & 4 and 10 & 11, 2025, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (all day Friday and Saturday for both weeks). Participants must also commit to attending all four sessions.

The Apprenticeship Readiness Program is free and held at the CTC on MCCC's main campus in Monroe. This free program is open to individuals from the community who are looking to develop the skills, confidence, and industry connections necessary for apprenticeship and trade careers. To participate in the Apprenticeship Readiness Program, individuals must be at least 18 years old, have a high school diploma or GED, and have a strong interest in pursuing a career in the skilled trades. Current MCCC students are not eligible to participate.

Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from various trade representatives as they showcase their line of work and share insights on their apprenticeship programs. Additionally, attendees will gain knowledge and hands-on exposure to key trade skills, including trades math, welding, millwrighting, construction, industrial wiring, and OSHA 10 safety training.

Upon successful completion of the program based on requirements, students will gain insights into various career pathways by meeting representatives of different trades and explore apprenticeship opportunities. Students will also:

- Receive a Certificate of Completion from Monroe County Community College.
- Receive a graduation gift: a tool set.
- Qualify for two college credits in the MCCC's offered by ASET Division (eligible candidates only).
- Be provided with vouchers for OSHA 10 certificate prep (for those who are interested)

To register or learn more, contact Levi Good, Apprentice Coordinator at (734) 384-4270 or lgood@monroeccc.edu. To learn more about MCCC's apprenticeship opportunities visit <https://www.monroeccc.edu/programs/apprenticeships>.

RECENT EVENTS

Electric and Hybrid Vehicles Spotlighted During County Earth Day Expo 2025 and Center for Automotive Research, Ann Arbor (CAR)

MCCC's ASET Division hosted its fifth annual Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Show this year in April as part of Monroe County's Annual Earth Day event. The MCCC ASET show, which began in 2021, joined forces and with organizers of the Monroe County Earth Day Expo in 2024 to expand awareness in the community.

Attendees had the opportunity to learn about the latest electric and hybrid vehicles, drive some of the vehicles and learn directly from owners about their experiences buying and owning them. Participants also learned about charging equipment currently on the market and the current and emerging EV charging infrastructure, as well as meet with automotive and motorcycle dealership and manufacturing representatives, network providers, DTE Energy officials, charging company representatives, government officials to learn about the present and future of electric vehicles.

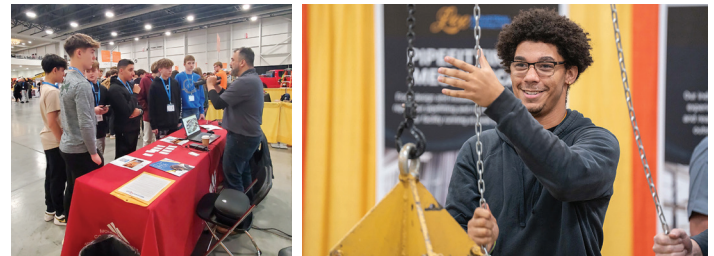
In a separate event at MCCC organized by CAR held their first electric vehicle adoption and education summit. Over 50 people from the industry gathered to discuss future of electric vehicles in the United States. The project and event were funded by Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.



Manufacturing Technology Panel and Tour

On July 29, MCCC hosted more than 50 regional advanced manufacturing technology professionals, educators and workforce development leaders for a panel discussion exploring Industry 4.0 technologies. Participants benefitted from an exploration of how Industry 4.0 is transforming manufacturing and workforce development in Southeast Michigan including insights on innovation, the practical application of Industry 4.0 technologies, including growing regional collaborative opportunities.

This informative event, co-hosted by Automation Alley, Manufacturing Growth Alliance, Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center, Downriver Community Conference, and MCCC also included a tour of MCCC's state-of-the-art technology labs in the Career Technology Center.



MCCC Construction Program participates in MiCareerQuest

MiCareerQuest Southeast is the region's largest interactive career exploration event for high school students. It exposes students to a broad range of exciting, rewarding career opportunities as they prepare for their futures!

Thousands of high school students from Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Wayne, Washtenaw and Livingston counties met with working professionals who have built successful careers in a variety of fields. In addition, young people had the opportunity to touch, feel and work with the equipment, tools and technology used by people every day in a broad range of in-demand jobs.

The goal of MiCareer Quest is to connect classroom learning with real-world jobs and their requirements. Students also will discover engaging workplace opportunities, such as internships, job shadowing and more.

RECENT EVENTS

MCCC Construction Program participates in Just Build It

The Washtenaw Contractors Association (WCA) in conjunction with the Washtenaw Contractors Association Foundation hosted the “JUST BUILD IT! Construction Career Expo” for middle and high school students to explore various careers in the commercial construction industry. Drawing an average of 1,600-2,000 students annually, JUST BUILD IT! has served more than 34,000 students from Washtenaw County and beyond since its inception in 1998.



As the longest running and most comprehensive construction career exploration program in Michigan the “JUST BUILD IT!” Construction Career Expo provides students in grades 8-12 and their counselors and teachers with hands on activities with the skilled trade apprenticeship programs: demonstrations by industry professionals such as architects and engineers; and exhibits by construction firms, educational institutions and industry organizations.

Judging for architectural drawings for the county

MCCC hosted the award ceremony for the 2025 annual Architectural Student Design Competition May 6, 2025, at the CTC.. All public and private 7th – 12th grade students in Monroe County were invited to submit entries of a single-family residence with a home office and business studio to be constructed on an existing site. Students from Airport High School and Dundee High School submitted 24 entries. Judging was based on best illustrated constructability, economy, marketability, zoning and building code compliance. MCCC faculty Dr. Emrah Kazan served as a judge for the second consecutive year.

Dawson Fuhrman, from DHS, won the \$400 first prize, followed by Ashton Viers and Kyli Morton, both of DHS, receiving \$300 and \$150 prizes respectively, Riley Steele, from AHS, won the fourth place \$100 prize and Dallas Bensch, of DHS, rounded out the winners and received \$50.

Fifth Annual High School Welding Competition

Since 2022, at the conclusion of the academic year for area high schools, MCCC hosts a welding competition. This year, students from three counties participated including Flat Rock High School (Wayne County), Saline High School (Washtenaw County), Monroe High School

and Airport High School (both in Monroe County).

First place winners in each category received a \$1,000 scholarship to further their studies at MCCC and included:
Brady Sattler, SHS, Combined Process
Noah Haase, FRHS, GMAW
Malic Magnusson, SHS, GTAW
Trenton Stone, AHS, SMAW



All participants received gifts donated by equipment vendors and suppliers, such as Bakers, Lincoln, Fronius and Monroe Environmental. In addition, Fronius donated a welding machine, which one lucky student, Sattler, won to take home for his personal use. Lunch was provided by TLC Credit Union.

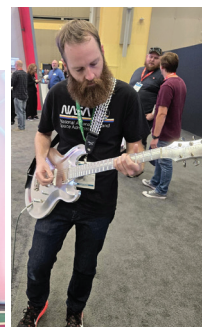
Testifying before State Legislature regarding Nuclear Power

In February 2025, Parmeshwar ‘Peter’ Coomar, dean of the ASET Division, testified at the State Legislature on value of Nuclear Power for generation of clean energy with DTE Energy, University of Michigan, Department of Nuclear Engineering and few other utility companies from the state.



Instructors and students head to Chicago for the 2025 FABTECH

The International Manufacturing Technology Show (IMTS) is a bi-annual trade show that features industrial machinery and technology. Held in Chicago, IL in 2025, several instructors and faculty traveled with more than 20 MCCC students to attend IMTS, the largest manufacturing technology trade show in North America.



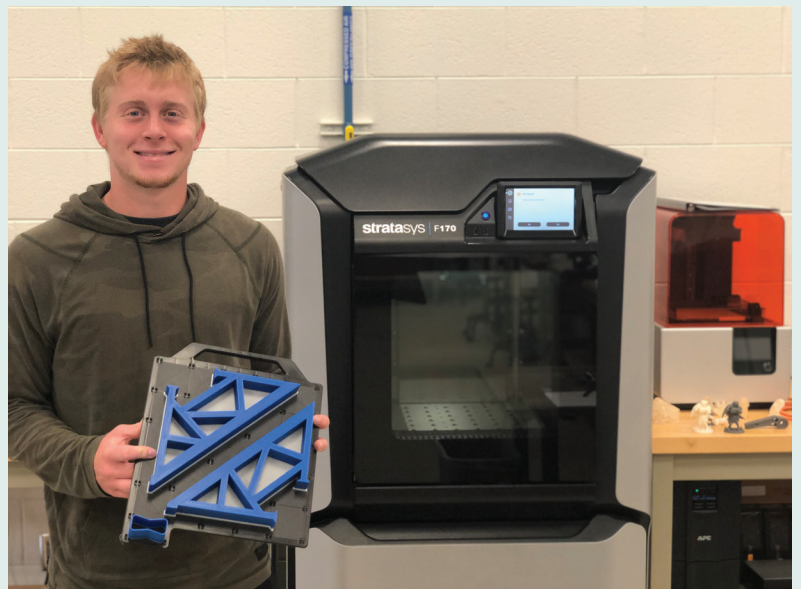
Makerspace Workshop Offerings Continue to be Added

The Makerspace has hosted a number of workshops this past year. There have been several collaborations with organizations including One Book One Community, the Monroe County Middle College, MCCC Library and Lifelong Learning, and many others have been self-developed or suggested by someone and then developed in coordination with Mike Reaume, Makerspace coordinator.

The workshops ranged from “free and fun” walk-in events, such as a demonstration of the CNC laser as it cut out ornaments or other various projects for participants to decorate and assemble for various holidays or other themed events, to hands-on electronics and soldering workshops where participants learned the art and skill of soldering while building a flashing LED Christmas ornament, an alarm clock, and FM radio, or an overdrive pedal for musical instruments (like an electric guitar). Other workshops included a customized cutting board class where students learn to use design software along with the CNC laser to engrave a personalized cutting board, and 3D printing workshops where students see firsthand how a 3D printer works and learn how to “slice” a 3D model for printing.

New equipment acquisitions, such as the Peel 3 3D scanner and Prusa XL multi-color/multi-material 3D printer (see related article) present new opportunities for students, groups and community members to make use of the Makerspace in new ways. Recently, a Makerspace user who is designing a facemask/helmet in SolidWorks (a 3D CAD software) was struggling to figure out how to accurately size it; Reaume stepped in and together they were able to use the scanner to take an accurate 3D scan of the users head, upload the model into SolidWorks, and then design the helmet around it to ensure a perfect fit. Likewise new Prusa XL was large enough to print the entire helmet in one piece. Previously, the model would have been split into multiple pieces that would have to be glued together later.

Future workshops are currently being planned and the community is encouraged to submit ideas for individual or group projects.



MCCC MAKERSPACE WORKSHOP FOR
Building Your Own
Guitar Pedal

Wednesday, April 17
from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Building your own guitar pedal will be fun and rewarding. You'll experience pride in playing through something you built yourself, especially when it gets you closer to the elusive tone of the superstars and legends. Similar to our electronics/soldering workshop, this workshop involves a lot of soldering, and a bit more use of hand tools. The kit to build the pedal is included in the cost and is yours to keep at the end.

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

To inquire about availability or RSVP, please contact Mike Reaume via email: mreaume@monroccc.edu

MCCC's Apprenticeship Opportunities Continue to Grow

Monroe County Community College's Applied Science and Technology Division offers a variety of apprenticeship opportunities for those who are interested in entering the skilled trades.

Apprenticeship programs at MCCC generally begin with a sponsoring company who employs the apprentice while they are studying in an established sequence of trade-related courses customized for the employer in a number of skilled trades programs and provide on-the-job training hours required for the program.

The length of an apprenticeship depends on the complexity of the occupation and the type of program (time-based, competency-based, or hybrid). Apprenticeship programs range in length. During the program, the apprentice receives both structured, on-the-job training (OJT) and job-related education.

Benefits to the student enrolled in one of MCCC's offered apprenticeship programs generally include:

- Paid employment during training with progressive wage increases
- Opportunity to learn skills needed by employers throughout the industry
- A more secure career and the ability to adapt to new job requirements
- National industry certification upon graduation from a career training program and can take that certification anywhere in the United States (if applicable)
- Credit towards an AAS degree for completion of apprenticeship program

Examples of companies recently sponsoring apprentices at MCCC:

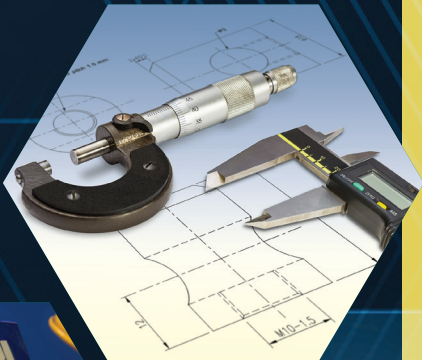
Axis Engineering - Machine Repair, Tool & Die
City of Monroe - Electrician
Flat Rock Metal - Machinist, Industrial Electrician
Ford Dearborn - Millwright
Ford Flat Rock - Electrician, Plumbing-Pipefitting, Welding, Truck Mechanic, Machine Repair
Ford Livonia - Welding
Ford Rawsonville - Plumbing-Pipefitting
Ford Woodhaven - Plumbing-Pipefitting, Welding, Electrician
Ford Stamping - Tool & Die
Ford Assembly - Plumbing-Pipefitting Gerdau-Millwright, Electrician
GM Battery Plant - MPS JAMA-Electrician
MTS Burgess - Millwright
MTS Seating - Tool & Die
National Galvanizing - Maintenance Repair
Phoenix Mold & Engineering - Tool & Die
Premier Industries - Machinist
TWB - Maintenance Technician
Wurtec - Machinist

Examples of trades currently accepting apprentices:

Plumbers 98 & MCA Detroit
Michigan Works!
Iron Workers 25
Sheet Metal Workers Local 80



ASET PROGRAMS



Associate of Applied Science Degree Programs

Automotive Service Technology, A.A.S.

Construction Management Technology, A.A.S.

Electrical Engineering Technology, A.A.S.

General Technology, A.A.S.

Manufacturing Technology, A.A.S.

Mechanical Design Technology, A.A.S.

Mechanical Engineering Technology, A.A.S.

Metrology and Quality Technology, A.A.S.

Nuclear Engineering Technology, A.A.S.

Welding Technology, A.A.S.

Certificates

Automotive Service Technology Certificate

Construction Management Technology, Residential and Light Commercial Construction Certificate

Construction Management Technology: Virtual Design and Construction Certificate

CAD/CAM Technician Certificate

CNC Technician Certificate

Mechanical Design Technology Certificate

Mechatronics Certificate

Metrology Technology Certificate

Quality Technology Certificate

Non-Destructive Testing Technician Advanced Certificate

Non-Destructive Testing Technician Basic Certificate

Solar Energy Certificate

Wind Energy Certificate

Advanced Welding Certificate

American Welding Society Certificate

Basic Welding Certificate

ASET PROGRAMS

Grant awards provide unique opportunities

The faculty and staff of the ASET Division have been working on a number of grants that help fund many of the initiatives outlined in this edition of Tech Update. The “One Workforce or Industry Infinity” \$275,000 grant funded comprehensive curriculum work (includes all teaching materials) and supplies for the electrical, construction and mechanical engineering programs.

A NSF (National Science Foundation) grant awarded in conjunction with University of Michigan provided \$100,000 in funding over four years that provided professional development opportunities, faculty wages and supplies.

The \$280,000 Apprentices Building America (ABA) grant is supporting the apprentice coordinator position for first year and the pre-apprenticeship bootcamp offerings.



For more information about all ASET Division programs & courses please go to:
www.monroeccc.edu/ASET



MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

enriching lives

QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

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