

Spring 2018



HOUSATONIC
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Advanced Manufacturing
Technology Center

Playing the end game



With only a few short months until graduation, I am asking local companies to carefully consider our Class of 2018 when making hiring decisions. There is a lot of talent and passion for the industry within this group. Their skill levels far surpass untrained recruits and more than half of them to date have gained experience by working as manufacturing interns during this semester. I anticipate that history will once again prove true, as typically 90% of those internships should convert to full-time employment on May 24th. There remains a limited window of opportunity to take one of our students for a test drive before that date by participating in the program. So think about it and if you decide this might be in your best business interest, give me call at 203 231-4815 or e-mail windyacres2@frontier.com

Industry Advisory Committee

The quarterly meeting of our Advisory team took place Wednesday, March 14th and was another SRO event. Among issues discussed was a substantial restructuring of the AMTC curriculum next year which will increase instructional time and emphasize both metrology and CNC machining. Industry input at these meetings has driven changes in the way we do business; notably the inclusion of Master Cam and more advanced GD&T this year. Commentary was also provided regarding performance of our current group of interns and the differing skill requirements of each manufacturer. Expansion of training initiatives through *College Connections* and addition of an Associates degree offering were also introduced. A considerable bit of serious business took place in 90 minutes, but that is really how responsive programs designed to meet industry needs should operate. None of this is possible without your support and participation, as the AMTC evolves. We thank all those company representatives who have done the diligence, took part in the occasionally heated discussion and helped build a network that advances our product. You should think about joining this auspicious group for our next meeting!



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Education and Industry Partners

With all the educational focus upon STEM, STEAM and Technical initiatives, it's refreshing to see Seymour High School put these concepts into action. Combining solid-modeling/ CAD coursework with hands on fabrication, the Alternative Energy club actually builds electric powered racers for competition at Lime Rock. Part of the Electrathon America organization, students create these vehicles from scratch, placing in the top three finishes for the past five years. This year's vehicle required a fairly sophisticated steering/brake assembly be designed and machined. With a little help from AMTC instructors Paula Chapla & Adam Scobie and a sweet aluminum donation from JV Precision it looks as though we'll have a place at the race. To my mind this represents a unique collaboration between HCC, an innovative local high school program and an industry partner willing to grab a glove and get in the game. Way cool!



Economic forecasts, internships and new hires

The State Department of Labor released benchmarked statistics for 2017, indicating that CT manufacturers added 2900 new jobs during the year. According to the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA) in concert with DECD Commissioner Catherine Smith, 13,000 openings will be created for skilled and trained manufacturing workers in 2018 with additional growth projected for the foreseeable future. That's always good news for a busy industry, as new, renewed and anticipated contracts support our state's economic viability. But meeting the demand for trained workers remains a challenge for most companies. So, unless the data is completely unrealistic I imagine many of you out there should be concerned for succession planning and growing your workforce. The AMTC has been a proven resource in the process for the past six years, as many local companies will attest. We are once again aligned with New Haven's Workforce Alliance to provide lucrative salary incentives for those manufacturers hiring our graduates and stand ready to be at your service; which is why we exist in the first place. Think about sponsoring an intern or preparing for new hires by acting now. All you need do is contact me (windyacres2@frontier.com) and I'll have resumes on your desk within hours and arrange personal interviews at your convenience. It's that simple.

