

Thanksgiving 2017



HOUSATONIC
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Advanced Manufacturing
Technology Center

Giving Thanks



The approach of Thanksgiving traditionally serves notice that in a few short weeks it will be final exam time and then the end of first semester. AMTC staff have been impressed by the constant diligence and determination of this year's class and have high hopes for some record-breaking grade point averages. These guys/girls have been faithfully grinding out the 35+ hours of weekly instruction; most while holding down a part-time job. That speaks to commitment and heart. This class definitely has some *skin in the game*. Our goal is to maintain their high level functioning throughout, despite the grueling schedule. To that end, we have to say thanks to several companies who have helped shine that light at the end of this tunnel. Whether serving as guest speakers, sponsoring company tours, participating in the Advisory Committee, donating supplies or simply visiting with words of encouragement these partners make all the difference. I'd like to specifically thank Chris Dolny, Eric Noack, Mark Francis, Ralph Milone, Karin Nicoll, Paul Kelley, Mikaela and Josef Visinski, Joe Haupt, Kate Brunson, Mark Meller and soon to appear reps from General Dynamics and ASML. I hope you know the names. They are your colleagues in local industry and welcome AMTC partners.

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Mike Gugger retires

Back in 2012, when the AMTC was first born, Mike was tapped to put it all together. That was no easy task. Tirelessly working the 70 hour weeks when equipment was first installed, a CO was still a dream and brand new students anxiously awaited this life-altering training; Mike was a stalwart. Always with an easy smile, cool hand and positive demeanor...he made it work. Now he's sunning himself in South Carolina, which is a real switch for this Boston guy. All of us wish him only the best as he begins the next chapter in his life; probably on a golf course right now! Mr. Gugger you will be missed.



Internships...check one out now!

As first semester is about to conclude, it might be a good time to come in for a visit and check the progress of students who may become your next great employee. All you need to do is tell us when you would like to see what is happening at the AMTC and then just **show up**. Our guys and girls will do the rest. Remember, there is a long time between the Holiday break in which manufacturers can hire anyone in this class and take them for a *road test*. But that's really the whole point of spring internships. Once we resume classes in January, those students who have *made the grade* will be eligible to work for you on Friday's only, until they graduate. Tradition has held that about 90% become part of the company and mostly all have continued to stay in their job. That's the reason the AMTC has been able to place all qualified graduates for the last four years. If we can provide inexperienced but well-trained advanced entry level students who can deliver the goods for the manufacturing industry...well perhaps you should check us out. That's just a suggestion, but get in the game and you might be impressed!



What next semester will bring

Just before the Holiday Season begins, the Class of 2018 will participate in mock interviews with representatives from area companies, finalize their resumes, take final exams and then prepare for the semester ahead. Classes resume (oddly enough) on Wednesday January 18th and we are planning to conduct new semester orientation Monday and Tuesday. I am hoping to have manufacturers on board to provide some inspiration and motivation for that agenda, so please contact me if you are interested in lending a hand. The class will be increased by five students, as graduates from the College Connections program will be added to the roster. This crew has been part of the Bassick High School partnership, which spent five afternoons a week since their junior year working and learning to become machinists. We are excited to bring them on as full-time students ready to complete the AMTC program.

Second semester coursework and schedule are kicked up another notch as metrology, grinding Master Cam and lean practice are added to Technical Math, Blueprint Reading, Lathe, Milling and CNCII are delivered in four very long days each week. Fridays are reserved for lab work and internships (for those who qualify). This level of rigor is not for the faint-hearted, but as we all understand the AMTC program compresses and incredible amount of training into a short window of time. The end result continues to be an advanced entry-level employee, schooled in the basics but not yet experienced. Those of you working to build apprenticeships should know that most all this counts toward hourly requirements, making our graduates even more attractive as new hires. So stay the course with us and let me know how we can serve your needs. *Gene LaPorta*, Outreach Coordinator elaporta@hcc.comnet.edu 203 231-4815