College Hosts Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs Manufacturing Camp

Providing 16 local high school students with a guided introduction to the world of working with metal, this summer College of the Canyons hosted the Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs®, (NBT) Advanced Manufacturing camp at its state-of-the-art welding technology facility.

Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs®, The Foundation of the Fabricators & Manufacturers Association, Intl. (NBT) is an organization geared towards inspiring the next generation of manufacturers, inventors and entrepreneurs by engaging young people in career preparation for well-paid, fulfilling jobs that require hands-on skills.

As part of the weeklong camp at COC, students were able to work alongside expert instructors and industry professionals in acquiring the necessary skills and safety training needed to master introductory metal fabrication and welding techniques.

“Each day students were able to enter the lab and immediately get to work cutting, drilling and shaping metal into various projects using the college’s industry grade metal fabrication equipment,” said Tim Baber, chair of the college’s welding technology department.

Adding to the camp experience was a visit from Ed Youdell, president & CEO of the Fabricators & Manufacturers Association (FMA), and David Brown, current vice-chair of the NBT board, who had an opportunity to interact with camp participants and share information about the many rewarding career opportunities that exist in today’s manufacturing industry.

“I would hope that (the students) would take away a vision of another industry,” said Brown, in explaining to local reporters the main impetus behind the camp. “It may turn out to be nothing, but we hope it will resonate with them and perhaps they’ll consider it for a career path.”

“A key piece of this (program) is finding the right community college,” said Youdell about partnering with COC to establish a tuition-based summer camp model. “We want there to be a cost because we want the kids to realize there’s value in being here and that you’ve got to put something in, in order to get something out.”

The 2015 NBT Advanced Manufacturing camp was made possible thanks to support from the Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajig Foundation, a National Science Foundation Advanced Manufacturing & Processing Training (NSF-AMPT) grant, Lincoln Electric, Classic Wire Cut, and RAH Industries.

“We would not be able to provide local students with these type of engaging, career exploration learning opportunities without the continued support from our stable of industry partners,” said Baber.
For more information about the COC welding technology department please visit www.canyons.edu/Departments/WELD. For information about Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs® visit www.nutsandboltsfoundation.org.