Welcome to the inaugural edition of Career Insider. With the publication of this newsletter, we'll spotlight the wide variety of Career Technical Education (CTE) programs available at College of the Canyons, geared specifically toward helping students attain the skills needed in the most popular industry careers.

Forget what you may think about “industry” being a code word for “low paying.” The work world is rapidly changing, and vocational/occupational education has morphed into CTE. Many fields are now very technical (computers, robots, etc.), and require a two-year degree, certificate or other specialized training.

The College offers more than 30 CTE programs in science and technology, the arts, healthcare, public safety and business. Interested in animation? COC has a program. How about American Sign Language interpreting or interior design? COC has the programs. So, whether you’re interested in water systems technology, becoming a medical lab technician or a pastry chef, COC has you covered. Whenever possible, we link coursework to industry-recognized certifications, so students leave our programs with degrees and certificates from the College, as well as industry certifications that speak to specific skills and knowledge acquired.

By using our newsletter in combination with other resources, such as our website and O*Net, current students, high school students, faculty and businesses alike will be in tune with the current and projected status of these industry jobs. You’ll hear from campus educators who are seasoned professionals with real-world experience who can show you what’s cool and exciting about a variety of career pathways and what actual working conditions are like. Think a culinary degree simply qualifies you to work in a kitchen? Think again.

We also plan to feature student success stories, as well as a calendar of events and news sections, so you can keep up-to-date on the most current career happenings.

Do you have a success story that you’d like to share? I’d love to hear from you personally! Perhaps we can feature you or your student in an upcoming edition of Career Insider. And, if you have an idea for a feature in a future edition, I’d like to hear that, too.

I hope that with the publication of Career Insider, in combination with the other resources available, students take advantage of all we have to offer, including the wide array of internship opportunities, in order to help them make career decisions that much easier.

Happy reading!

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MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY
REAL JOBS NEED REAL SKILLS!
Career Technical Education Programs

Manufacturing Technology is a program designed to prepare students for a variety of entry-level positions in the manufacturing environment. College of the Canyons (COC) offers Certificates of Specialization in: Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) using the CATIA and SolidWorks CAD packages, Computer Aided Manufacturing using Mastercam, and Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) Machining. In layman’s terms, manufacturing and product development is all about designing and making products that people want and need. Classes are designed for first-time college students, re-entry students, and current industry employees requiring skill enhancement or upgrade training. Learned skills may include the ability to operate conventional and CNC machinery, program CNC machinery, operate various CAD/CAM software systems and interpret blueprints.

Regina Blasberg, department chair for manufacturing shares, “Plans are in the works to expand course and degree options over the next couple of years to create a more diverse program for students and industry alike. This will include an ‘introduction to manufacturing’ course that emphasizes the various professional opportunities manufacturing has to offer, as well as the various educational pathways associated with manufacturing.”

The majority of the manufacturing courses are held at COC’s Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT) located on-site at Aerospace Dynamics International (ADI), located in the Valencia Industrial Park. ADI is one of the largest aerospace manufacturers in Santa Clarita, employing upwards of 500 employees. Holding classes at the CACT located within ADI’s facility allows students real-world experience using technology and equipment in the same type of company where they would be eligible to work upon program completion.

Manufacturing and product development are an important part of California’s economy, with the industry producing a wide range of products from sophisticated electronic/computer-related equipment to the simplest of toys. Adjunct manufacturing professor Phil Murg explains, “The manufacturing industry is making great strides in producing parts directly from computer aided design models. In the next 10-20 years, CNC machine tools will have a new role in the way parts are produced, which may restrict machining operations to just finishing.”

For example, using robots and computer-controlled automation to do the repetitive manufacturing work, today’s manufacturing employees are talented people who understand technical information and can make complex decisions. In fact, the need for individuals that are well-trained in leading-edge technologies is critical to the long-term success of manufacturing in the United States and to employees at large.

According to Kish Rajan, director of the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development, California is the global leader in advanced manufacturing, with the state’s economy being renewed through the manufacturing industry.

Because these jobs are typically high tech, one can earn a good living wage. CACT Director Joe Klocko explains, “While entry level manufacturing jobs start at roughly $30,000 to $40,000 a year, individuals easily average $60,000 to $70,000 a year with five years of experience, and some even make six figures within a decade.”

The really “cool” thing about earning an education in this field, says Klocko, is the fact that “you can learn to design anything, from simple components to an entire aircraft, automobiles and similarly sophisticated products.”

For more information about this program, please contact Regina Blasberg, department chair, at Regina.Blasberg@Canyons.edu or (661) 362-5096.
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the lower end of the wage scale in California is just slightly behind the national average, while the upper end of the scale exceeds that of the national average. For those working in the area of computer-controlled tool operations, they can expect to earn anywhere in the range of $22,800-$57,300/yr here in California, as compared to $23,300-$52,900/yr nationally. The same trend exists for machinists, as well. They can plan on earning anywhere from $22,700-$64,900/yr here in California, as compared to $24,300-$59,800/yr nationally. Employees working in the area of CNC programming can expect to earn anywhere in the range of $30,500-$80,900/yr here in California, as compared to $30,900-$72,100/yr nationally.

Employment within the field of manufacturing is on the rise, both locally and nationally, with California taking a slight lead over the national average. Employment in California in the area of computer-controlled machine tool operations is expected to rise by 21 percent between 2010 and 2020, compared to the national average of 19 percent. Machinists can expect to see a rise of 13 percent locally, as compared to nine percent nationally, and computer numerically controlled machine tool programmers can expect a rise of 17 percent locally as compared to 11 percent nationally.

For more industry and career information, visit the following resources: O*NET OnLine at ONetOnline.org/, the Bureau of Labor Statistics at BLS.gov/ooh and California Career Café at CaCareerCafe.com/Pathways/.

Courses offered in Manufacturing Technology

Measurements and Computations (MFGT 090); CNC 1: Operation and Manual Programming (MFGT 121); CNC 2: Concepts and Programming (MFGT 122); CAD/CAM I (MFGT 131); CAD/CAM II (MFGT 132); CATIA I (MFGT 141); and CATIA II (MFGT 142).

Fast Track Courses offered in Manufacturing

Fast Track is particularly well suited for those interested in manufacturing as a career choice, and who have time to enroll in short-term intensive classes.

Joe Klocko, CACT Director, oversees the seven-week, 40-hour-per-week training program and job placement. As far as student success rates go, Klocko says, "We have had many individuals complete the Fast Track CNC or Manufacturing Assembler and Technician Training (MATT) programs who have been out of work for six, 12 or 18 months and, after an intensive seven-week program, they secure a new job and a career path in manufacturing. The placement rate in the CNC program is 70 percent (better if non-CNC jobs are included) and the retention rate is over 90 percent. Get in, get out, get a job!"

Fast Track courses are not part of the main college curriculum, but rather fee-based classes offered through the Economic Development Division. The program provides fast-paced, intensive, job preparation programs for job seekers, mid-career professionals, recent high-school graduates and other community members looking for an opportunity to quickly jumpstart their career. For upcoming potentially related Fast Track courses be sure to visit: CanyonsEconDev.org/BusinessUnits/FastTrack.

Occupational Profile:
Manufacturing Technology

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Accounting | Administration of Justice | Administrative Assistant | American Sign Language Interpreting
Animation Production | Architectural Drafting | Automotive Technology | Commercial Photography
Computer Applications | Computer Networking | Culinary Arts | Customer Service | Early Childhood Education
Emergency Medical Technician | Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management | Filmmaking
Graphic & Multimedia Design | Hotel & Restaurant Management | Human Resources Management | Interior Design
Land Surveying | Manufacturing Technology: Machining/CNC | Marketing | Medical Laboratory Technician
Medical Office Administrative Assistant | Nursing: Registered Nurse | Paralegal Studies | Personal Training
Real Estate | Retail Management | Robotic Welding Automation | Solar Energy Technician | Sound Arts
Sports Medicine | Video Game Animation | Water Systems Technology | Welding Technology | Wine Studies