



From the Director ...

NCATC Friends and Colleagues,

The new year is already ushering in many exciting, new emerging technologies and workforce / economic development endeavors and initiatives at the national level. NCATC has been or will be involved in many of them for our members – including, but not limited to:

- The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) recently entered into a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) to launch the Expanding Community College Apprenticeships (ECCA) initiative. NCATC will join the newly formed Task Force on Community College **Apprenticeships** next month and serve a three-year term.
- An International **Industry 4.0** workforce development partnership expansion with Fanuc Automation / Robotics following our 2018 work with Arconic Foundation and AACC starting with meetings in Tokyo during April and co-hosting the 2019 Summer Workshop in June.
- The NextFlex Learning Program Board had its inaugural meeting in San Jose, CA, during February. NCATC is a formal member assisting in the expansion of Flex Factor and other **industry-led** advanced technology-oriented, learning programs for K-14 with our community and technical college network.
- The Manufacturing Engineering Education Program (MEEP) funded by the Department of Defense led by the National Center for Defense Manufacturing and Machining (NCDMM) in partnership with America Makes, Tooling U-SME, and Thomas P. Miller will expand online / hybrid learning by developing **industry-driven** courses for Digital / Smart Manufacturing / Automation and Robotics. NCATC is an active member of the MEEP Steering Committee that launched in March 2019.
- The NCATC **Workforce Development** Professional Certificate initiative in partnership with Harper College is being readied for a Fall 2019 launch to our member network. Stay tuned for many more details over the next two quarters.

The NCATC Board of Directors and staff hope to see you at the **2019 NCATC Summer Workshop** hosted by Oakland Community College (OCC) and FANUC America in Auburn Hills, MI – June 6–7, 2019.

And, save the date for the **2019 NCATC Fall Conference** hosted by the Minnesota State Advanced Manufacturing Center of Excellence (MSAMCoE), formerly 360 in the Twin Cities, MN – September 11–13, 2019.



As always, we encourage you to stay regularly connected, via the NEW 2019 NCATC [website](#), social media, and quarterly e-newsletters like this one.

J. Craig McAtee,
NCATC Executive Director ◆

President's Message

Jeff Wyco, Senior Vice President of Workforce Development & ATC Operations, BridgeValley Community & Technical College



I am honored to serve as the NCATC president this year. Being a member of NCATC and serving on the Board of Directors have given me opportunities to develop many friendships and connect with many leaders of Advanced Technology and Workforce Development across the country. Every conference and meeting results in learning something new to implement, or improve, at my college. Attending conferences is a great way to see what our peers are doing, learn best practices, and benchmark our own programs and initiatives—and, of course, to have a great time with some terrific people. There is no better way to develop a network of peers that can help you with “what you do.” I hope you will attend our Summer Workshop in Auburn Hills and our Fall Conference in Minneapolis. Your organization will definitely benefit from the experience.

I am super excited about new initiatives that will bring value to our members in 2019:

1. NCATC will be partnering with Harper College to offer a Certificate in Workforce Development that will be a “go to” to learn all about workforce and economic development, building partnerships, and best practices to connect to your industry and community.
2. NCATC and some of our partners have joined with AACC and Arconic Foundation in developing the framework for best practices in Industry 4.0. This framework will provide a guide to best practices and certifications that align with the workforce needs in the current smart manufacturing environments in which our students will work.
3. Membership Assistance Program (MAP) Services continue to be available to help you plan and/or improve your Advanced Technology Centers. More information is available at: <https://ncatc.org/member-assistance-program>.

Please read our Membership Overview on the NCATC website at <https://ncatc.org/overview> to get a full picture of how your organization can benefit from joining NCATC. And check out our great partners at <https://ncatc.org/partners>. I am sure you will be impressed by the high quality of the folks we work with daily. If you are not a member, I welcome you to join us. Being an NCATC member has so many benefits to you and your organization!

Jeff Wyco
2019 NCATC President ◆

PCC Is Leading State Project That Gets Low-Income People the Job Training They Need

Program helps students access and complete education and training in key industry sectors

Portland Community College and thirteen other Oregon community colleges have established the Oregon Community College SNAP 50/50 Consortia. It is a reimbursement, third-party match program budgeted at \$5 million and administered federally by Food and Nutrition Services and statewide by the Oregon Department of Human Services. Colleges are reimbursed for 50 percent of their expenses related to the project, while the other half comes from existing college resources, such as state, local grant, or foundation funding.

“Based on a study, this strategy had a huge return on investment, not just in terms of the federal match generated to support Oregonians, but also in terms of getting people out of poverty so that they don’t need SNAP or other public assistance,” said Kate Kinder, director of PCC’s Career Pathways (<https://www.pcc.edu/career-pathways/>) and Skills Training. “In times of tight budgets, this is a strategic way to maximize funding while still prioritizing student success, access, and equity.”

Opportunities to Advance — The project’s goal is to increase employment and training opportunities for individuals and families who are receiving SNAP, which offers food benefits to eligible low-income individuals and families. Through the SNAP 50/50 Consortia, colleges provide extra support and resources to help students complete their GED, increase their English skills, earn a college credential, do an internship, and/or find a job that leads to a living-wage career.

“In collaboration with DHS, the colleges came together to increase resources for those who are food insecure, and often needing to juggle work, family, and school in order to increase their economic situation,” added Kinder. “I think it can be a really impactful program.”

The statewide project, which will serve 1,131 individuals in the 2019 federal fiscal year, is using the community colleges’ nationally-recognized Career Pathways framework and a skills-based approach to support SNAP recipients as they access education and training, and transition into employment. The colleges’ Career Pathways help students advance in their education and careers, and offer three-to-nine-month stackable certificates that lead to jobs and degrees. The member colleges are collaborating with other govern-

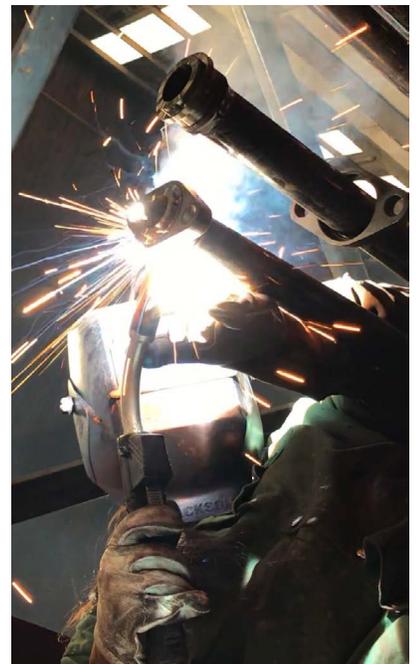
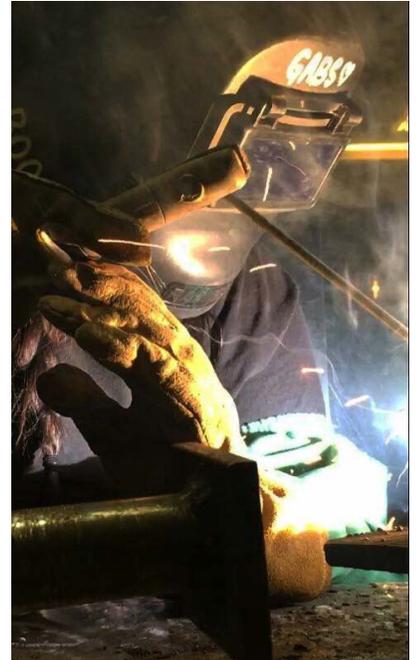
ment and community-based organizations to better serve low-income students.

“The colleges are helping students access and complete education and training in key industry sectors such as advanced technology and health care that create economic mobility,” said Marc Goldberg, associate vice president of Workforce Development and Continuing Education at PCC. “The plan is to have all 17 Oregon community colleges on board in the next year, to ensure low-income Oregonians across the state can develop skills for these great job opportunities.”

An example of how the 50/50 Consortia is being implemented successfully is the added coaching support for students in the Maritime Welding Career Pathway at PCC’s welding lab on Swan Island and in the Vigor Industrial’s shipyard. Vigor is the leading provider of shipbuilding, complex fabrication, and ship repair and conversion in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. Students can earn stackable credits, certificates, and industry-recognized credentials that create an avenue to either employment with the likes of Vigor, or into the college’s Welding Technology associate degree program.

So far, there have been three cohorts in Maritime Welding training, with an overall completion rate of 80 percent, an employment rate in the field of 78 percent, and an average starting wage of \$19 per hour. This pathway has helped to diversify what historically has been a homogenous occupation. More than half of the initial cohort were women or identified as non-binary gender students. Subsequent cohorts have had a larger representation of women, students of color, and immigrants than the college’s welding program traditionally has had. And the STEP grant has enabled PCC to promote this opportunity to diverse students, while assisting them financially and with other challenges they may face.

For more information, contact Marc Goldberg, PCC Associate Vice President – Workforce Development and Continuing Education, at marc.goldberg1@pcc.edu. ♦



From left to right, PCC Maritime Welding Career Pathway students Jalie Sturgeon, Tyson Brown, and Kiamana LoBue

Oakland Community College: Moving at the Speed of Technology

OCC committed to keeping pace with technological change in the region

Oakland Community College (OCC) is poised and ready to meet the demands of a changing economy in southeastern Michigan. Equipped with new strategic partnerships, revamped programs, and refurbished labs, OCC is responding to the demands of industry, whose needs are different than they were just a few years ago.

OCC is located in Oakland County, where 64 of the Global 100 Automotive OEMs have operations (<https://www.oakgov.com>). This concentration of industry and the ever-changing technological advancements of the automotive industry created the skills gap that has led OCC to adopt a different strategy.

“The industry in Southeastern Michigan is in the midst of change and OCC is changing with it,” says Donald Hutchison, the Dean of Engineering, Manufacturing and Industrial Technologies (EMIT) at OCC. “There is a significant skills gap in this region relative to technicians in advanced manufacturing and auto-related fields. We realized a few years ago that we weren’t adequately responding to the need.” He continues, “We needed to adapt to the changing industrial landscape around us to better empower our students.”

OCC began by strengthening existing industry partnerships and aggressively pursuing new ones to foster win-win scenarios. For example, the Machine Tool Technology department partnered with HURCO to provide the latest in CNC machine tools on a rotating basis and at no cost to the college. The college, in turn, allows the lab to be used as a showroom for potential HURCO customers. The Automotive Servicing department is working with FCA’s MOPAR CAP Local to seamlessly integrate its curriculum into existing programs,



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allowing students the opportunity to earn several credentials needed for careers as auto technicians. In late 2018, OCC also signed a memorandum of understanding with 3D imaging mega-company Autodesk to become one of just a few community colleges in the nation designated as a strategic partner school. This relationship allows for specialized training opportunities that allow faculty and staff to upgrade their skills and gear up new curriculum. The EMIT department, as a whole, engaged with NC3, the National Coalition of Certification Centers, who consulted on the layout of new labs and assisted in embedding 3rd-party certs into multiple programs.

The college then strengthened its relationship with Oakland Schools Technical Centers, the secondary education career and technical education campuses that cater to students pursuing technical career paths through an Early College model. This partnership produced several articulation agreements, resulting in an increasing pipeline of students flowing from high school to college. “The partnership with OSTC has several benefits we refer to as the ‘Three P’s,’” says Laura Thero, Program Manager of Operations in the EMIT department. “Students from OSTC pay on time, they have predictable schedules and they persist in greater numbers than the general population. Everyone wins!”

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Massachusetts Governor Announces Grant for Statewide Advanced Manufacturing Training

Kathy Rentsch, Dean, School for Business, Engineering & Technology, Quinsigamond Community College



A robotic hand, CNC machines, and a packed-house were on tap January 14, as Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito joined Quinsigamond Community College (QCC) President Luis G. Pedraja, regional workforce leaders, and state and local officials at QCC's QuEST Center (<https://www.qcc.edu/services/quest-center>) to announce \$2.5 million in grant funding to four regional consortia, through the

Advanced Manufacturing Training Program (<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/advanced-manufacturing-training-program>). It was a particularly special time for QCC to host this event in the QuEST Center, as it was the third anniversary of the opening of the building dedicated to engineering and technology education.

"Since October 2017 we've added over 3,500 manufacturing jobs in Massachusetts," noted Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. The state-wide program is designed to address the skills gap in the manufacturing industry by creating a fully-coordinated manufacturing training system that will connect residents to full-time employment, and meet the needs of regional industry.

In central Massachusetts, QCC and Mount Wachusett Community College (both NCATC members) are actively engaged with their respective workforce boards, MA Manufacturing Extension Partnership, vocational-technical high schools, and other training providers in developing the Central Region Advanced Manufacturing Consortium (CRAMC). CRAMC's goal is to supply skilled talent to manufacturers in the region. Focused on unemployed or underemployed adults, CRAMC will offer entry-level training in manufacturing and electronics, apprenticeships, and job placement.

The event featured the awarding of grants to each of the four regions in the Commonwealth. The Central region received \$638,750 for the training and placement of 160 individuals. Manufacturing represents 10% of the Commonwealth's total economic output.

"As the skillsets evolve, students and the workforce are going to require more advanced training. These skills are vital to the success of advanced manufacturing," said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja.

• "QCC," continued from page 3 •

Oakland Community College also allocated significant funding to upgrade and outfit various technical labs. The welding program, for example, now has a completely renovated lab complete with brand new welders, plasma cutter, shear, press brake, and extensive fabrication equipment to provide a well-rounded curriculum for students. The new spaces are starting to bear fruit as technical programs are growing in enrollment and a positive reputation is spreading.

"The new facilities are state of the art!" says Chris Hand, a student in the welding department. "I've already recommended the program to a friend who has already enrolled."

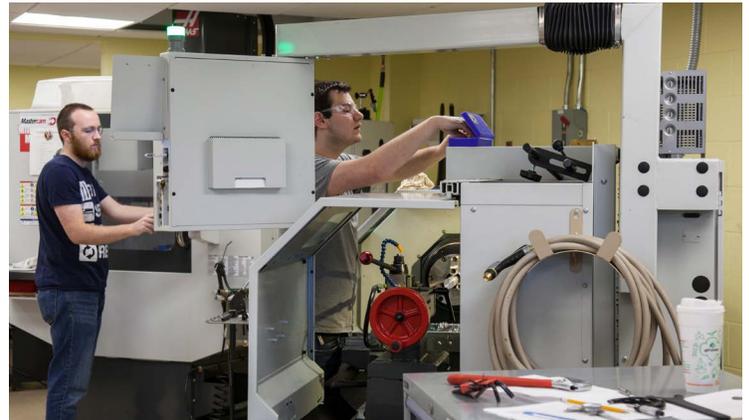
Oakland Community College is committed to keeping pace with the constant state of technological change in the region. "We are proud of the work accomplished over the past few years," say Joe Petrosky, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. "We must remain agile and flexible to keep pace with industry and best prepare our students with the skills they need to succeed."



Since 2015, the Advanced Manufacturing Training Program has invested more than \$5 million in workforce development, and this year's award round nearly doubled the yearly investment over previous years. This round also further aligns the program with the efforts of the Workforce Skills Cabinet to regionalize workforce development approaches, and better streamline resource access points for job-seekers and employers. In April 2017, the Workforce Skills Cabinet launched regional teams to gather and analyze data to better understand the needs of local employers and existing skill gaps in the talent pipeline, and to determine high-growth industries with long-term hiring needs.

"QCC works closely with manufacturers to ensure a strong and solid pipeline of workers are available to help them grow and prosper," Dr. Pedraja said. "We thank the Commonwealth and the Administration for the funding to continue our efforts to be able to train our students for the jobs of today and tomorrow."

For more information, contact krentsch@qcc.mass.edu. ♦



For more information, contact Donald Hutchison, Dean, Engineering, Manufacturing & Industrial Technologies, Oakland Community College, at dshutchi@oaklandcc.edu. ♦



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