

Winter 2018



HOUSATONIC
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Advanced Manufacturing
Technology Center

We're back!!



HOUSATONIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center

Second semester began January 17th with a bang, as students were faced with the daunting coursework before them, while reviewing their performance to date. There's a lot of pressure, now that the *end game* is in sight and high performing students are being placed into internships. All tough things considered, this crew posted better than B averages overall and now are asked to kick it up another notch. That is simply because the AMTC must be able to assure our company partners that we work hard to keep our promise of a well trained, but not yet experienced, product at graduation. They understand what is required and are up to the task. Now the pedal hits the metal, no question about it. This crew needs a few cheerleaders and there have been many industry partners who have stepped up to root them on.

You make it all happen!

Once again, I have to give shout-outs to those manufacturers who have taken the time to partner with us along this journey. If I went by name, there wouldn't be enough room to thank everyone. It really has been a true pleasure working with all of you. But let's look at what has happened chronologically...

- Orientation—before classes even began a message to stay the course
- Presentations—during first semester 12 companies delivered
- Donations— we go through lots of metal; sometimes scrap and need more
- Tours— 7 manufacturers sponsored tours for AMTC students
- Tours— 5 manufacturers also gave tour to local high school students
- Visits— harder to count because there were quite a few
- Individual student contacts— everyone realizes this can only be a good thing
- Mock interviews— semester-ending, culminating *almost job* interviews
- Advocacy— much needed and most appreciated, as we do our work

The idea remains pretty simple; we train them and you hire them, so Connecticut's Manufacturing Base continues to drive our economy forward. That is all we are about. Grab a glove and get in the game. Finish line is only months away; and only good things can happen when we work together!



Internships begin February 9th!

Those of you already familiar with the drill already know the AMTC has begun placing interns into local manufacturing companies, ready to start next Friday. Many have had the foresight to visit, *inspect the product* (our serious Class of 2018) and place dibs on a prospective employee. Student eligibility is derived strictly from performance during first semester; if they earn the grade (B or better overall), we are pretty confident of their readiness to join the workforce, on a very part-time basis, while continuing their grueling studies toward final certification. That means these men and women are only available on Fridays; anytime you want them. Other than that, they spend about 35 *other hours* with us each week. Those who need to step up their game have an opportunity to show their stuff by 2/16/18...second semester progress reports.

The clear advantage for manufacturers is a low-risk chance to take them for a road test, check the tires and essentially have a prolonged interview. AMTC history has found that about 90% stay with their internship sponsor and reviews from hiring companies have been most positive. So I need you to consider working with us to help fill your hiring needs. Process and paperwork are minimal; nothing close to working through an agency. Give it some thought and contact me at windyacres2@frontier.com, elaporta@hcc.comnet.edu or call 203 231-4815. I am always at your service and it's nice to think most of you already know that.

The buzz about apprenticeship

On January 26th, HCC hosted an informational legislative forum titled *Helping Your Business Work*. It was a well-attended DOL event which showcased some of the innovative approaches and available resources manufacturers can tap into constructing apprenticeship programs. For those of you who are interested, it is important to note that AMTC graduates are credited for all the related coursework required. That's a big advantage when making new hires. Here are a couple of highlights you should know about...

Manufacturing Innovation Fund Apprenticeship Program

Wage Subsidy Reimbursement: The Manufacturing Innovation Fund-Registered Apprenticeship Program provides a wage subsidy of \$5.00 per hour multiplied by the total number of hours worked per apprentice. The total amount is not to exceed Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00) per qualified apprentice for year one and Seven Thousand (\$7,000) for year two.

Manufacturing Apprenticeship Tax Credit Sec. 12-217g-3. Eligibility.

Any taxpayer who employs an apprentice duly enrolled and registered under the terms of a qualified Manufacturing Program is entitled to a tax credit for each eligible apprentice of up to \$7,500.00 maximum or 50% of actual wages

American Apprenticeship Initiative (AAI)

The AAI Grant is dedicated to direct tuition and training expenses up to \$3,500 for each apprentice. The goal is to deliver high quality and affordable related training instruction for the apprentice and the sponsor.

For more detailed information, Keri Lamontagne (keri.lamontagne@ct.gov) (860) 263-6129 is your best source.

