

HENNEPIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE Technology talk

For alumni, friends and supporters of Hennepin Technical College

2008, Vol. 1

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You are invited to help celebrate HTC's 35th Anniversary!

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Kathryn E. Jeffery, Ph.D.
President



You're invited to help celebrate HTC's 35th Anniversary

Hennepin Technical College has planned many celebratory events that will entertain, educate and introduce the public to the many facets of technical education. We're glad you are a part of our community and we hope you help us celebrate!

MILESTONE CELEBRATION

**April 30th (3-7 p.m.)
Brooklyn Park Campus**

**May 8th (3-7 p.m.)
Eden Prairie Campus**

Guests will be able to watch and learn about HTC through tours and program demonstrations. Special guest speakers, food and live music will be a part of this community celebration.

**A Founders Tribute will also take place on the May 8th Celebration*

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS ARE LISTED ON PAGE 12

To learn more, visit:

www.HennepinTech.edu/35

or call 952-995-1300

Each semester Hennepin Technical College looks for better ways to communicate who we are and identify ways we can best benefit residents of our communities through the training and courses we offer. It occurred to me, the best way to communicate our mission and vision is through the stories of those who have attended HTC over the past 35 years. With that in mind, in this issue as in past issues of *Technology Talk*, we highlight the lives of HTC students, faculty and staff.

Recently, the college launched an exciting alumni emphasis focused on bringing alumni together from selected program areas. To date, reunions have been held for Cabinetmaking, Dental Assistant, Automation Robotics, Ford ASSET and Floral Design. The HTC Alumni Office coordinated these events. Alumni had a chance to re-connect with former classmates, instructors and industry partners. All shared fond memories of their days in the classroom and, more importantly, alumni talked about how their education and training had opened doors to meaningful careers and advancement opportunities.

We know many of our alumni remain in the local region, while a significant number live and work throughout the nation in a wide variety of professions. HTC alumni help make communities better and safer places in which to live and work. Most recently, an estimated 80 – 90% of the emergency responders that were called to action when the I-35W Bridge collapsed in Minneapolis on August 1, 2007, were educated at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. Many of these men and women are HTC graduates from Emergency Medical Services, Fire Science and Nursing. We are proud of the training, critical thinking, clear communication, and teamwork they displayed and the difference they made to the community that day and in the days that followed. Additionally, Hennepin Technical College has provided training for all new hires for the Minneapolis Fire Department since the 1990's.

We are proud of our alumni whether they are in the news or working quietly behind the scenes. Their career accomplishments are an endorsement of the college's ability to prepare students for employment in high-growth and emerging industries. Simply put, our students are our best advertising!

HTC is committed to meeting alumni needs by providing quality and competitiveness in our academic programs and strengthening alumni affinity through alumni activities, workshops and reunions. New initiatives by the Alumni Office continue to expand. To highlight the fact that many of our local business partners employ HTC graduates, the Alumni Office will host its first off-campus reunion on February 20, 2008, at MTS Systems Corporation in Eden Prairie where over 70 alumni are employed. Two additional off-campus reunions are scheduled for February 21. The first at MGS Machine Corporation in Maple Grove and the second at The Hartfiel Company in Eden Prairie. If your company employs HTC students, let us know if you would like to host an alumni event.

No matter how long it has been or how far away alumni now live, Hennepin Technical College is a place to network and advance careers through continued education.

To stay connected to all that HTC has to offer its alumni and for us to acknowledge your personal and professional achievements, we need to hear from you. If you are a former student or if you know former students, our website is a quick and easy way to give an update about your career, offer suggestions for alumni activities, and notify us of any changes of address. Nothing would make us happier than to hear from you and feature your accomplishments in an upcoming newsletter or on our website!

HTC's website is also a great way to stay current on what is happening at the college. **This year marks our 35th anniversary of providing quality education that is changing lives and building local and global communities, one student's dream at a time.** What a great opportunity for alumni to reconnect with the college and see how we have changed! Join us for the many anniversary events scheduled and the **community celebrations** at the **Brooklyn Park Campus on April 30th and Eden Prairie Campus on May 8th.** We hope to hear from you soon!



Kathryn E. Jeffery, Ph.D
President

Some kind of *magic*

Mike Cirillo believes the year-and-a-half he spent as a student at HTC has had lasting value in his life. What he learned about fluid power and, more importantly, about himself has had a positive effect he still appreciates more than a decade after graduating from the college. So when he was asked to speak at the annual HTC Foundation benefit, it prompted him to reflect on the changes in his life and the way HTC contributed to what he has accomplished.

"I gained the ability to use creativity and look outside the box," says Cirillo, something that is critical in his job as a senior test engineer at Environ Laboratories in Bloomington, Minnesota, where he has been employed since 1995. What's more, it was while he was a student at HTC that he gained the confidence to return to the University of Wisconsin – Stout to complete the bachelor's degree he had started right out of high school.

As Cirillo says, "Like a lot of people after high school, I didn't know what I wanted to be when I grew up." He decided to look for a college that had a lot of things he was interested in, which he found at Stout. During two-and-a-half years there, he says that he switched majors every semester and didn't do very well. Then, feeling he was no closer to figuring out what he wanted to do, Cirillo decided to leave college. His parents, he recalls, weren't happy about his decision: "They sat me down and we made a deal that I would get a degree of some sort. So my father and I went to visit some technical schools." During a visit at HTC, he liked the Fluid Power program. The lab was the first thing that struck him. Then, Cirillo says, "I talked to instructor Ernie Parker and we really got along." He also talked to a few students and found that some were high school classmates of his. He enrolled and, to his surprise, many of his credits transferred to HTC from Stout.

"At HTC, I really started to enjoy school and I did really well grade-wise," says Cirillo, adding that soon he and his fellow students were working together, teaching and helping each other when they had trouble understanding something.

"That is where I think the magic of this place really is: The opportunity to work with the students and the teachers so that everybody understands and learns," Cirillo emphasizes.

Cirillo graduated from the HTC Fluid Power program in May 1993. "Strangely enough, during my second year at HTC,



I decided to go back to Stout to see if I could finish my four-year degree, especially now that I had some direction," says Cirillo. He did, and again a lot of his credits transferred. With his HTC training, Stout allowed him to design his own degree: Power Transmission.

"My parents tell me that when I graduated from HTC, I had found a new confidence in myself, which helped me want to continue my education," said Cirillo. "I think they are correct, because I went back to Stout and was able to complete my degree in just two years." So in six years, he completed both a two-year and a four-year degree. This also pleased his wife-to-be, Vicki, who had told him she would not marry him until he graduated. They were married six weeks after his graduation from Stout. Today they and their three children live in Prior Lake.

As a senior test engineer at Environ Laboratories, an independent laboratory for engineering and testing services, Cirillo finds that he uses what he learned at HTC every day, including his knowledge of hydraulics, pneumatics, electronics and instrumentation. Environ specializes in environmental simulations and destructive testing; Cirillo's specialty is fire testing. He works with five people who have also earned degrees from HTC in various fields.

Mike Cirillo believes that HTC helped change his life and make good things possible. He gained the confidence to complete his four-year degree, found an industry he liked, got married, and built a career at Environ in a job he describes as being "everything I got in trouble for as a child, now I get paid for." To Mike Cirillo, that's some kind of magic.

Doing Well and *Doing Good*

When it comes to helping others, David Mogollon is happy to put his Carpentry skills to work. So, besides using the skills he developed in HTC's Carpentry program to do well earning a living, he uses them to do good by volunteering to help people in need.

"It feels really good when you can use your skills to help someone who really needs it," says Mogollon. "When you build with Habitat for Humanity, it's not just building another house or putting an addition on a wealthy person's lake home. You're really making a difference to people in need."

That was especially true after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. That's when Mogollon had a unique opportunity to help in a large-scale building project. Mogollon got involved through his wife Kristine's employer, Thrivent Financial, which has a partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

"After Hurricane Katrina, we did something called a 'barge build,' where we built several houses on the banks of the river in St. Paul and then sent them down the Mississippi River on a barge to the Gulf Coast," said Mogollon. "It was really fun to see how quickly we could frame up the houses and I met a lot of nice people from other Minnesota companies." It was a volunteer opportunity that put his skills to good use.

Mogollon graduated in May 2005, with a diploma from the Carpentry program. He also has taken Architectural Drafting classes in the evening at Eden Prairie Campus, where he learned a lot about residential construction. Since graduating, he has been employed by a contractor who owns residential apartment buildings, so Mogollon has worked on remodeling and maintenance projects. He also has worked on home remodeling projects such as finishing basements and adding decks and bathrooms.

"I like working with my hands and making things," Mogollon said in explaining how he chose the Carpentry program. English is a second language for Mogollon and

he notes that many people on construction crews speak Spanish, but not necessarily English. "I think there will be a lot of opportunities for skilled carpenters who can speak both Spanish and English." Mogollon was born in Mexico and has lived in Minnesota since 1996. His wife's three brothers all attended HTC in Brooklyn Park and one graduated from the Carpentry program. Mogollon says that's why he knew HTC was a good choice.

"HTC was less expensive than other colleges and it was easy to apply and get started," said Mogollon, who feels it is an especially good fit for adult learners who have been out of high school a while. He found that Carpentry instructor Jay Carlson really spent time getting to know the students and helping each one learn and do their best. Mogollon also liked the real-world experience he gained as his class built a house in Robbinsdale.

David Mogollon values the job skills he developed and also believes his education came with added benefits. "At HTC I gained confidence, improved my English language skills and became more responsible," he says. "I made some great friends in the program that I still stay in contact with today." Now he shares what he gained at HTC and, in doing so, has done well for himself and has done good things for others.



Changing Lives, **Building Futures**

The Best **Advice**

Paul Waletzko, a 2006 graduate of HTC's Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program has followed what he believes is the best advice he has ever gotten: Find a job that makes it seem like you've never worked a day in your life. That's what his dad told him, and he thinks he's found the right job.

"I'm at my best when I'm interacting with people," said Waletzko. He gets plenty of opportunities for that as an EMT in the Emergency Room at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, where he helps patients get settled, records their vital signs, performs EKGs, splinting and wound care.

"I knew that a four-year college wasn't for me," said Waletzko, who graduated in 2005 from Jefferson High School in Bloomington, Minnesota. "My attention span isn't that long." As a child he was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder, and he knew that he wanted a hands-on job. In high school, he participated in the STRIVE (Students Taking Renewed Interest in the Value of Education) program sponsored by the Bloomington Daymakers Rotary Club, which provides motivation and support to students through business and community mentors.

"The STRIVE program gave me a kick-start," said Waletzko. That sentiment is shared by his father, Chuck Waletzko: "Between the mentoring and seeing hands-on training, Paul saw career possibilities, and he liked the idea of making a difference through working in the medical field." Paul's dad appreciated the fact that the program let students know there are good careers that don't require earning a four-year degree and working in an office.

While deciding what training to pursue, Paul Waletzko visited HTC and really liked the instructors.

"I was impressed with how they related to students," emphasized Waletzko. He enrolled in the EMT program and soon realized he had found the right place.

"I actually looked forward to going to school," said Waletzko, "and I had never thought I'd be able to say that." He liked the hands-on training, including the opportunity to work on SimMan, a life-like mannequin that allows students to administer care for simulated illnesses and injuries. "If I can see it and do it, then I can really learn," Waletzko emphasized, "and I can't say enough good things about the instructors – Sandy Yetzer and Mike and Lou Ann Lord."

The EMT program concludes with a three-day internship, which the instructors tell students they should treat as a job interview. Waletzko's internship was at Abbott Northwestern Hospital and he was recommended for a job before he left on the third day. His co-workers include HTC graduates.

Today, Paul Waletzko says, "The best thing about my job is the people I get to meet every day and the life experiences I get to see. I see people at their best and their worst. I see some sad things and some really happy things." He shares that experience now when he returns to Jefferson High School to speak with current STRIVE participants. For this HTC graduate, it's time to pass along some of that good advice about choosing a career.



Lending a *helping hand*



"I feel an affinity with people who need a helping hand." That's what Connie Ardin says when discussing her support for the HTC Student Crisis Fund. The fund provides assistance for small but immediate needs, such as car repair or some other unexpected emergency, that jeopardize a student's ability to stay in school.

Ardin says that years ago, as a divorced mother of three children, she knew that she

had her family to call upon if she needed support. Thankfully, she didn't have to seek financial help from them, but she knows that others may not be so fortunate. That's why she's ready to lend a helping hand.

"Connie is one of the unsung heroes who understands the importance and value of helping others," said Carole Carlson, Executive Director of Institutional Advancement at HTC. As Carlson describes it, the grants awarded from the Student Crisis Fund help with a small but immediate need, such as a car battery or the cost of a tank of gas until payday. For example, the fund has helped a student replace textbooks destroyed in an apartment fire. "For a lot of people \$50 or \$100 doesn't mean much, but for some of our students, it can mean staying in school," Carlson explained.

Ardin worked as an accountant for Intermediate School District #287 in Plymouth, in the department led by David Pfeffer,

An eye on *the future*

HTC Foundation Board Member Don Craighead likes to look ahead. And he believes that the future holds many exciting possibilities for HTC and its students. At the top of his list is the selection of HTC as a partner institution for the Minnesota Center for Engineering & Manufacturing Excellence (MCEME), with lead institution Minnesota State University, Mankato. The center builds partnerships between higher education, business and industry to stimulate economic growth through education, workforce training and applied research.

"The college's partnership in the center and the growing focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programs in high schools are bringing attention to the skills students need to succeed in manufacturing and technology jobs," says Craighead, whose association with HTC covers more than three decades. It began when Craighead, who founded Power/mation in 1961, was asked to serve on the advisory committee to HTC's former Packaging program, now the Automation Robotics Engineering Technology program.

"HTC turns out work-ready graduates, which is the kind employers are looking for," Craighead emphasizes. He knows firsthand about employing HTC graduates. Craighead hired many of HTC's top students to work at Power/mation, a distributor organization specializing in sales of electromechanical automation hardware and advanced automation applications. He notes proudly that those HTC graduates have gone on to very successful careers, and he sees the college expanding its role in helping more students develop the skills to excel in manufacturing and technology jobs.

another active supporter of the college and a member of the HTC Foundation Board of Directors. She began working for the district in 1974 and retired in 1992. Previously, she had worked for the Bloomington Public School District.

Ardin shies away from taking credit for the major donations she has made to the Student Crisis Fund. "Getting this kind of attention really goes against my Norwegian background," she says with a chuckle, "so don't build me up too much. I'm not any better than anyone else, you know." Now a resident of Bloomington, Ardin lived in Plymouth for many years. She attends the HTC retiree luncheons, but promised herself that after retiring she wouldn't serve on any more boards or councils.

"I used to give to the general fund, but when I heard about the crisis fund I thought it was a great idea," says Ardin. According to Carole Carlson, the first gift to the Student

"It's a privilege to be involved with the college," commented Craighead, who sold his company in 1990 and has since devoted his energy toward helping numerous community organizations, including National Youth Leadership Council and Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth. "When young people have someone take an interest in them, they bloom and blossom," says the North Oaks resident, who is especially proud of his involvement in the Rotary Club STRIVE (Students Taking Renewed Interest in the Value of Education) program. It targets the lower third of high school students and offers support and motivation as they improve their attendance, attitude, grades and participation. Students receive support from business and community mentors to get on a better path that can lead to a college such as HTC.

For Craighead, a member of the board of directors since 1999, supporting the HTC Foundation in its goal of raising funds for scholarships is part of his larger vision of helping young people. "The Foundation has more than proven its worth," he says. "It's unmatched in its delivery of support to students through its fund-raising." As he looks ahead, that's the kind of support Don Craighead wants to keep building for HTC and its students.



Crisis Fund was \$1,500 from the Bemis Company in 2000. The on-going fund was established by two retired employees. Joe Pucel, a now deceased, retired administrator, and Elmore Johnson, a retired cabinetmaking instructor, worked with Carlson's office to organize luncheons for former and retired employees. To provide a purpose beyond just getting together, Pucel and Johnson proposed that the retirees help support the Student Crisis Fund to keep it viable. Since 2000, over \$23,000 has been donated to the fund.

When it comes to students in need, HTC's Student Crisis Fund makes a difference. That's why Connie Ardin is glad to lend a helping hand.

To donate to the Student Crisis Fund, contact Carole Carlson, (763) 488-2426 or carole.carlson@hennepintech.edu.

Good People, Good Example

Betterley Industries in Blaine, Minnesota, has been a vendor to the Cabinetmaking program since the mid-1980s, so over the years the people at Betterley have spent a fair amount of time at the college.

Ask Bob Lind of Betterley Industries about the highlights of the Cabinetmaking program reunion held in October and he'll tell you two things: First, it was great to see the retired instructors. Second, he'll share what happened when the folks from Betterley Industries arrived to set up. "When we backed up the truck and started to unload, a couple of students came over and just started helping. They didn't ask any questions, they were just ready to help. I think that says a lot about the quality of students at HTC."

As Lind explains, "At national association meetings, I've heard people say that the people in this industry are the nicest of any industry. I'd say that the Cabinetmaking students who helped us out are a good example of that."

Reflecting on his long association with HTC, Lind says that one of the best things about being a vendor to the college, is seeing students progress. "It's fun to see students go into the program – some just out of high school and others training for a new career – and see them build their skills. Instructors Keith Hanstad, Jim May, Ray Oakman and Todd Williams are great to work with and their students benefit from their commitment to the program."

Cabinetmaking Program

Hosts First Reunion

When HTC Cabinetmaking instructors started planning a reunion for Cabinetmaking graduates, they had no idea how many people might attend. It was the program's first alumni gathering. As it turned out, the event drew a crowd of 250 people who gathered on October 16 for an opportunity to talk, look and listen.

"It was really a good time," said Cabinetmaking Instructor Keith Hanstad, "and it was fun to see former students." Cabinet shop owners and industry vendors also attended, so the event offered an opportunity for networking within the industry. "We hosted the event in the Cabinetmaking area so everyone could see the equipment and what had changed since the program started in 1972," said Hanstad. The event was for both Eden Prairie and Brooklyn Park grads, and was held at Brooklyn Park Campus. Culinary Arts program instructors and students prepared food for the reunion.

Hanstad, who has taught at HTC for 18 years, is also an alum of the program, graduating in 1981. "My grandfather was a farmer, but he also had a cabinetmaking shop that he used in the winter and that's where I got my interest in cabinetmaking," explained Hanstad. He studied engineering for two years, but decided his real interest lay in cabinetmaking. Then he enrolled in the program at HTC.

Over the years, equipment has really changed, noted Hanstad. Computer Numerical Control (CNC) programming and operations are changing the way parts are made. Now accuracy is even more important as the cost of materials and manufacturing time has risen. HTC offers a two-year Cabinetmaking program as well as a separate CNC certificate. Some Cabinetmaking graduates come back for CNC training and other individuals who never attended the college enroll in the certificate program to add to their skill set.

"We place our students in many types of woodworking jobs," said Hanstad. "It's not just about kitchen cabinets." Architectural millwork shops, display shops and store fixture shops are also possibilities for Cabinetmaking graduates. Hanstad says the program has excellent placement rates and that he tells students, "We'll find you a job. It just depends on the area of woodworking you're interested in."

After nearly two decades as an instructor, there's one thing that hasn't changed for Keith Hanstad: Teaching and helping students prepare for a career is the right job for him. The Cabinetmaking reunion was a good reminder of that.



Back to *the future*

For Derek Goddard, returning to HTC for training was all about looking to the future, even as he built on the skills he had developed in the past. As a 1991 graduate of the Cabinetmaking program, Goddard knew the college offered quality training. Since graduating, he had enjoyed a career that included running his own millwork company. However, as the building industry slowed down, he thought he should explore other opportunities.

Then he saw HTC Cabinetmaking instructor Keith Hanstad at an industry trade show, where his former instructor suggested Goddard look into CNC (Computer Numerical Control) programming and operations. He took Hanstad's advice, enrolled in the CNC certificate program at HTC and graduated in May 2007.

"I can't say enough good things about Keith and CNC training," said Goddard. "After just one semester of training, I was able to go out and immediately get a great paying job. I've never seen education work like that." Goddard works at Lifetime Fitness/FCA Construction, the in-house cabinetmaking shop for Lifetime Fitness, located in Greenfield, Minnesota. Since Lifetime Fitness is expanding nationally, Goddard says that the shop has added a second shift to meet demand and the CNC equipment is going 20 hours a day now to produce fixtures.

As Goddard notes, HTC's CNC program is one of the few in the Midwest. Otherwise, individuals can receive training from manufacturers when buying their equipment. However, the training offered through manufacturers is only on that brand or type of CNC equipment. At HTC, Goddard says, students get a broader approach to training on different machines.

"It's really cutting edge training and there is a tremendous demand for CNC programmers and operators," said Goddard, noting that CNC has a longer history of use in the steel industry than in the cabinetmaking industry. "I've encouraged a lot of people to take the training."

"The program is structured so anyone can succeed, with just basic computer skills," said Goddard, who said he never missed a day of class. "Keith is really good and goes step by step." Goddard admits that CNC is a different way to do things, with a robot making the parts. What does CNC offer? "Unbelievable speed and quality," according to Goddard.

In fact, Goddard likes CNC so well that he has bought his own equipment. As he says, he works on it all day, and then goes home and plays at night. For Derek Goddard, going back to HTC gave him a new focus on the future.



Building Partnerships in the Community



As Director of Diversity and Affirmative Action at HTC, Colette

Campbell Stuart is working to build relationships that will benefit the college, its students and the community. She believes that getting to know each other is one of the first steps.

To bring the community to the college, she and the members of the college's Diversity Committee helped organize a Community Partners Networking and Information Reception held on October 24 at the Eden Prairie Campus.

A broad cross-section of businesses and non-profit agencies were invited, including those representing immigrant populations.

"We see the event as mutually beneficial," said Campbell Stuart, "allowing the college to learn about the needs of area businesses and community agencies, while offering them the opportunity to see what HTC offers in career training and as a facility offering space for meetings."

To showcase what the college offers, the Culinary Arts program instructors and students prepared food for the reception. The Floral Design program students and instructors designed floral arrangements that were given as door prizes at the end of the event.

"It's another way for the college to establish partnerships that could lead to employment opportunities for HTC students," said Campbell Stuart. "We're always looking for new ways to connect with the community."

New Public Works Program

HTC is introducing a Public Works diploma and certificate program that offers specialized training to prepare individuals to begin or advance a career in Public Works with local, state or federal government or private sector utilities. The full program begins with the fall 2008 semester.



“As long-time employees of municipalities and utilities retire, the need for qualified Public Works employees will increase,” said Mike Colestock, HTC program manager. “This

program provides the training individuals need to begin a career or to enhance their opportunities for advancement.”

Increased attention to infrastructure projects may also lead to a greater demand for Public Works employees both in government and the private sector.

The Public Works program offers skills-based training, with two ways to benefit from the program. For those who want to start a career in Public Works, the diploma program blends General Education courses with hands-on training. The program offers four areas of specialization: parks and recreation, utilities, street maintenance and general maintenance. Individuals may earn a diploma after just three semesters, and a three-credit internship provides on-the-job experience.

For individuals currently employed in Public Works, HTC offers specific credit-based courses designed to develop the skills and knowledge to increase contributions to the team and enhance opportunities for career advancement. Courses include OSHA 30-hour training and Emergency Response for Public Workers.

For information about the Public Works program, contact Mike Colestock at (952) 995-1334 or mike.colestock@hennepintech.edu.

HTC Named

Lead Educational Partner

for NIMS Apprenticeship Program

HTC has been named the lead educational partner for the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) M-Powered Registered Apprenticeship program, which focuses on creating and implementing a registered apprenticeship program for youthful offenders in the Minnesota state correctional system. On November 1, 2007, the United States Department of Labor announced its award of \$776,095 in grant funds for the program through which the youthful offenders will learn the competencies required for high skill, high wage work. The goal is for the offenders to become economically self-sufficient in unsubsidized jobs within precision manufacturing.

“This is a program that will have a positive impact on the individuals and the companies they work for, as well as the community as a whole,” said Joe Fredkove, Director of Training and Business Development for Customized Training Services (CTS) at Hennepin Technical College.

The program will have 60 participants, ages 18 to 24, from three Minnesota Correctional Facilities: Faribault, Shakopee and Stillwater. Instructors will conduct classes at the facilities, preparing the participants for on-the-job apprenticeships with the following business partners: Eaton Corporation; Tjernlund Products, Inc.; EJ Ajax & Sons, Inc.; Miller Manufacturing Company; Rotation Engineering; and Yeager Machine, Inc. Classroom instruction is expected to begin in early 2008.

“By working together, the program partners will help the participants prepare for transition back into the community,” said Joe Mulford, Dean of Customized Training Services at HTC. “There’s a great need for skilled machinists, so this offers an opportunity for stable employment in the machining field.” The program’s partnership includes the United States Department of Labor, National Institute of Metalworking Skills, HIREd, HTC and the Apprenticeship Unit at the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry.

Technology talk

HTC Landscape Design Students' Proposal Chosen for Minnesota Arboretum Exhibition

An art installation designed by HTC Landscape Design/Construction students and HTC Instructor Jay Siedschlaw will be part of the Minnesota Arboretum's 2008 Summer "Treeology" Exhibition. The design was one of 17 winning proposals chosen from 78 entries in the Art 'n' Trees Trail juried exhibition for the Arboretum, which is located in Chanhassen.

HTC's winning design, "Arrest the Pest," will feature a carved Emerald Ash Bore (EAB) nearly five feet in length with a cage of ash trees surrounding it. The design draws attention to the EAB and its devastating effect on ash trees in Minnesota and throughout North America, both in suburban landscapes and natural forests. Ash trees in North America have no natural resistance to the EAB. It was first discovered in the U.S. in a shipping container from Korea in 2005. It is estimated that the EAB could kill 870 million ash trees in Minnesota alone.

"It's exciting to be involved in a project with the Minnesota Arboretum," said Siedschlaw, "and we're very pleased to be teaming up with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help raise awareness of this threat to ash trees."

A local chainsaw artist will create the five-foot-long insect from an ash tree log. "We wanted to develop an exhibit that was fun, but dealt with this serious matter," said Siedschlaw. The team of ten students included Matt Dahlke of Waconia, Minn., who designed the model the team submitted. Dahlke graduated from the Landscape Design/Construction program in December and is currently a student in the Business program at HTC.

A jury of designers and critics selected the 17 proposals to be implemented for the exhibition. Construction of the exhibition will begin on Arboretum grounds in mid-May. As a preview, models of the winning exhibits will be displayed at the Arboretum in March.

New Student Connections Centers

HTC celebrated the opening of new Student Connections Centers at each campus with open house events in September. "We hope the student centers will be places that bring people together and foster inclusiveness among students, faculty, staff and alumni," said KimChau Ngo, HTC Multicultural and International Student advisor. "Our goal is to make them places where diversity is celebrated." A multipurpose lounge and conference room, each student center will offer space for informal or organized gatherings. The centers will also provide reading materials that may be checked out and offer computer and telephone access for students.

A World of Opportunity

For Edward Kinanga, receiving a scholarship from the Brooklyn Park Rotary Club Endowment has made it possible for him to realize his dream. A native of Kenya who has lived in Minnesota for two years, Kinanga is a student in HTC's Practical Nursing program.

"My dream was always to become a nurse, but in developing countries the training opportunities are limited. I ended up training as an agricultural engineer," said Kinanga. "When I came to America, I found things were accessible to me." With the help of the scholarship, Kinanga says he can go to school with much less stress. "My grades have improved," he says, because he can work fewer hours and have more time for studying. He still works at Hopkins Care Center as a nursing assistant, where he gets to apply what he is learning in classes at HTC.

Grateful for the financial support of the Brooklyn Park Rotary Club, Kinanga has found a world of opportunity and a brighter future.



Be Part of MentorNet

HTC is joining other colleges and universities in becoming a member of MentorNet, the E-mentoring network for diversity in engineering and science. What is it? Founded in 1997, MentorNet provides highly motivated students with a one-on-one, e-mail-based mentoring relationship with mentors from industry, government and higher education.

If you would be interested in becoming a mentor, now's the time to find out more about this exciting opportunity. For information regarding HTC's participation, contact Jeanne Morphew, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, at (763) 488-2503 or jeanne.morphew@hennepintech.edu. Information about the program is also available at www.mentornet.net

Donate \$35 for 35 years!

Hennepin Technical College has been providing quality technical and career education for 35 years. Our Foundation works to raise money for scholarships and other forms of student assistance but, the need is always greater than we can fulfill. Please consider making a donation of \$35 for the 35 years of community service that HTC has provided students.

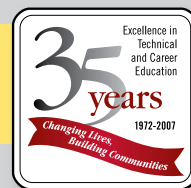
Visit www.HennepinTech.edu
Alumni and Donors link
or call 763-488-2503.

Get involved as an HTC *Alumni*

Find out about what is going on **today** at Hennepin Technical College by registering as an **HTC alumni**. You will receive the HTC *Technology Talk* newsletter and information about upcoming events.

Visit www.HennepinTech.edu
Alumni and Donors link

Celebrating 35 Years!



COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

Can you be creative without your computer? (free), Tuesday, February 12, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Brooklyn Park Campus
Hands-on class will work through the traditional methods of brainstorming and sketching ideas.

Bringing fresh flowers into your home (\$5 per participant), Tuesday, March 11, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Brooklyn Park Campus
Create fun floral arrangements using everyday objects as containers.

Observe a live recording session (free) Wednesday, March 12, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., Eden Prairie Campus
Learn about changes in the audio production industry and observe audio production students and faculty conducting an actual recording session of the HTC president singing a song of her choice.

Grow your own spring flowers (\$5 per participant), Thursday, April 10, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Brooklyn Park Campus
Learn how to transplant spring bedding plants into a poly pak. Students will be able to take their projects home to enjoy.

HTC car care clinic (free) Saturday, April 12, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Eden Prairie Campus
Learn simple steps you can take to maximize the length of life and mileage of your vehicle.



Free concert by the Bemidji Alumni Choir Saturday, April 26th, 7 p.m., Brooklyn Park Campus

RSVP online: www.HennepinTech.edu/35
Choir members, all former Bemidji State University Music Department students, will perform under the direction of Dr. Paul Brandvik, retired director of the Bemidji State University Choir, and Lori French. The performance at HTC is part of the choir's tenth anniversary season.

To register for any of the workshops, please call: 952-995-1604

Learn more about the HTC's 35th Anniversary Celebration at www.HennepinTech.edu/35

Hennepin Technical College
9000 Brooklyn Boulevard
Brooklyn Park, MN 55445



HennepinTechnical
College

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