

Anoka Technical College

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TECH TIMES

Alumni

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COLLEGE CELEBRATES STATE-OF-THE-ART SCIENCE LAB

Anoka Technical College is so serious about providing the finest technical education in Minnesota that they requested and received funding for over \$500 thousand to put behind their vision. The technical college requested the money to build a science lab and classroom, and they recently celebrated the completion of its new, state-of-the-art science lab and classroom that inspires hands-on and group learning experiences to understanding the sciences.



Before this fall, learners at Anoka Tech and high school students in Anoka-Hennepin School District's Secondary Technical Education Program (STEP) shared a science lab in the STEP building. Now, learners in Anoka Tech's health care and horticulture programs have a leading-edge lab that they can call their own. The science lab has six lab stations each with a sink and gas (air) line where learners can look at their own blood or at how plants store sugar. Each lab station can accommodate four learners. Behind the 1,443 square foot lab is a preparation area where instructors can safely mix and store the chemicals used during lab. On the other side of the lab is a lecture/classroom area where students can complete assignments, work on group projects or view recommended and assigned materials.

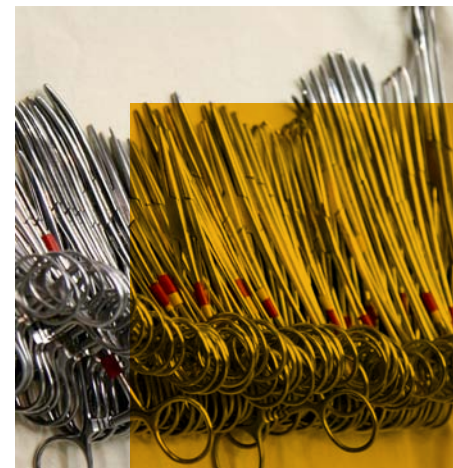
The science lab and classroom construction were part of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system capital bonding request. The request was made to help meet the needs of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) students and to expand learning opportunities for traditional, adult and STEP students.

During the celebration, Megan, a student who is considering the practical nursing program at Anoka Tech, thanked the college administration for supporting the project and professed she has seen science labs at several other colleges and the one at Anoka Tech is, "the best one out there."

ANOKA TECH RECEIVES GRANT TO PROVIDE CERTIFICATION TRAINING

Anoka Technical College and Fairview Healthcare Services received a \$178,530 grant from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development to provide sterile processing training to employees at Fairview Healthcare Services.

Awarded through the Minnesota Job Skills Partnership, the grant allows Anoka Technical College and Fairview to create a three-year curriculum and clinical training program. An anticipated 290 employees from six Fairview facilities throughout the metropolitan region will participate in the clinical, lecture and lab training. Once the employees complete the training, they will take an internationally recognized certification exam. "This project will position Anoka Tech ahead of the curve by developing curriculum that meets certification standards before certification is mandated by state law, which is anticipated in the coming years," said Tess DeGeest, director of resource development at Anoka Technical College.





INITIATIVE STRENGTHENS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

“When the economy rebounds, MMSI graduates will be ready”

Nine people at Anoka Technical College who proudly held their completion certificates high amid a wave of flashing cameras are now focusing on their future. The students marked the first group to complete all three levels of the Metropolitan Manufacturing Sector Initiative, an accelerated metal fabrication-training program that responds to a shortage of skilled workers in the manufacturing industry.

The Metropolitan Manufacturing Sector Initiative (MMSI) at Anoka Tech is a state-funded collaboration of two colleges, the Department of Employment and Economic Development, local metal manufacturers, Minnesota Center for Engineering and Manufacturing Excellence (MNCEME) and Amada America, Inc.

The students, most of whom already work at local manufacturing companies, successfully completed 36 weeks of intense training that focused on machine safety and operations, and skill application. “Completing all three levels of the training process required a big commitment,” said Dennis Spiess, a community partner from Hoffman. “It asks people to do things differently in order to move the industry forward. It requires more than just going to work.”

Several organizations were instrumental in the success of the program. Nick Graff, a business and education solutions manager at Anoka Technical College, said the success of the program relied on over \$1 million in public and private support. Anoka Technical College and St. Paul College provided a venue for the training; McLean Cooling Technologies, Hoffman and Reliant Engineering Manufacturing provided instructors; MNCEME provided a grant for developing the curriculum and training; and the Precision Manufacturing Association donated safety equipment.

Anoka Tech was fortunate to be one of only five colleges to receive three pieces of metal forming equipment from Amada America, Inc. The Illinois based company donated a press brake, a laser and a turret press so students can learn how to bend, cut, stamp or punch metal.

“Anoka Technical College is proud to participate in the MMSI program because it provides dislocated workers and other adult learners with the skills they need to obtain employment in precision manufacturing,” said Anne Weyandt, president of Anoka Technical College. “When the economy rebounds, MMSI graduates will be ready to fill positions of increasing complexity and responsibility on shop floors across the northwest metro region. The flexibility of this program also allows Anoka Tech to reach students who would not otherwise be able to obtain the skills they need in a timely way.”

HAPPY NEW YEAR
This will be the last Tech Times Newsletter of 2009. This has been a very exciting year for Anoka Tech and we are looking forward to the future. Thank you for supporting the college’s vision of providing the finest career and technical education in Minnesota. Have a safe and successful end of the year!

