

new PROGRAM

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Engineering Automation

present and prospering in Reading and surrounding areas.

No matter what products they make, manufacturers need to keep their production lines running smoothly and efficiently. To do so, they rely on cross-skilled, manufacturing maintenance technicians who troubleshoot, repair, and maintain plant systems and machinery. RMCTC students who hope to fill these high-priority positions in the future will soon have the opportunity to get the specialized training they'll need to embark on promising careers in the field of mechatronics.

"Mechatronics is combining mechanical, electrical, and instrumentation and controls into one person who has the best troubleshooting skill set possible," explained **Bonnie Spayd**, director of business and industry programs at Reading Area Community College (RACC).

Reading Muhlenberg Career & Technology Center, in partnership with RACC, is currently developing



get caught in the act of helping others

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the Engineering and Automation Technology program, with classes scheduled to begin in fall 2014. "The program will allow students to participate in the Technical Academy, which provides college-bound students with the opportunity to develop advanced technical skills and earn college credits while still in high school," said Dr. Beth Ann Haas, supervisor of curriculum and professional development at RMCTC.

During grades 10 and 11, students will attend classes at the career center, where they will learn about motors, industrial electronics, hydraulics, programmable logic controllers (PLCs), and other related topics. In 12th grade, eligible students will take courses at the Schmidt Training and Technology Center on the RACC campus. Upon high school graduation, successful

students in the Technical Academy will have completed eight college-level courses and 27 credits toward a degree in mechatronics engineering technology.

For more information about the Engineering and Automation Technology Program, please contact **Dr. Beth Ann Haas** at 610-921-7300, ext. 7681.

TECHtalk ▾ May 2013

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Reading Muhlenberg Career and Technology Center, in partnership with our diverse community, sponsoring districts, and business and industry, is committed to providing quality career and technical education, resulting in opportunities for students to gain employment, pursue postsecondary education, and develop an appreciation for lifelong learning.

EMT program continued

assessment, and track the credentials and certifications earned by graduates of the program. The council is enthusiastic about this venture, which represents the first time it has partnered with a career and technology center on an EMT program.

Since all EMTs are required to complete a formal training program and must be licensed by the state, considerable interest in the program is expected. "It's a high-demand occupation with a lot of opportunities in a variety of areas," explained Seltzer. The EMT course will be well suited for members of fire companies, ambulance services, and anyone who provides pre-hospital care in emergency situations. In addition, high school students will be able to obtain this training through the Center's Public Safety and Security Program.

Members of the partnership are actively planning the program now and expect to offer the course for the first time this summer. Evening and weekend classes will be held at RMCTC initially; in the future, classes may be offered at other sites in local communities. For more information, please contact **Becky Seltzer** at 610-921-7300 or adulteducation@rmctc.org.

It is the policy of the Reading Muhlenberg CTC not to discriminate on the basis of gender, disability, race, color, and national origin in its educational and vocational programs, activities, or employment as required by Title IX, Section 504 and Title VI.

DESIGNED BY BERKS COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT



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CAREER & TECHNOLOGY CENTER

TECHtalk MAY 2013

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Do you share in the common misconception that manufacturing has left Berks County? Consider these impressive facts:

East Penn Manufacturing's state-of-the-art, automated recycling facility processes approximately 30,000 batteries per day.

Berks Packing Company helped satisfy America's appetite for one of its favorite foods by making 115,654,000 hot dogs in 2012.

Each year, Carpenter Technology's Reading mill produces approxi-

mately 100,000 tons of specialty metal for a variety of markets, including aerospace and energy.

Yes, it is true that big manufacturing companies such as Dana, Kewecki-Berylco, and Textile Machine Works no longer exist in Berks County. However, as the examples listed above indicate, high-speed, high-tech manufacturing is still

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TECH talk

MAY 2013

Technicians Needed to Meet Production Demands

