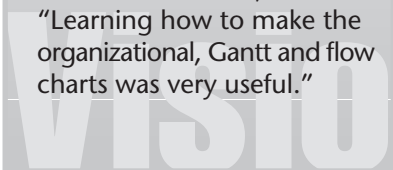


Construction Firm Learns Visio Software

A 40-year-old Placer County construction company called Sierra College Training & Development when it needed training in Microsoft® Visio®. The software program is used to create business and technical diagrams that document and organize complex ideas, processes and systems.

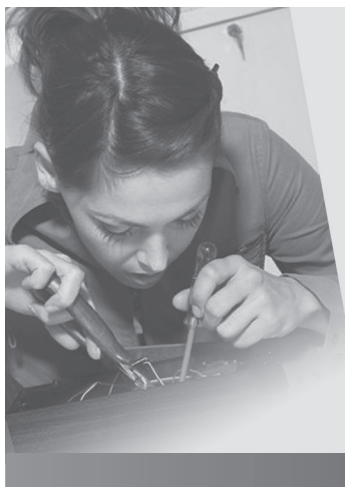
The software training class included using tool bars; starting a diagram from scratch or using templates; adding, formatting and connecting shapes; and using Visio® to create project, Gantt and organizational charts. Participants reported: "The instructor was very knowledgeable and helpful," "I got a better sense of what Visio® can do," and "Learning how to make the organizational, Gantt and flow charts was very useful."



High School Robotics Team Promotes Tech Careers

The Sierra College CACT-sponsored robotics team, hosted at Granite Bay High School, placed well at the regional FIRST Robotics competition (www.usfirst.org) in Davis in March, and will go on to the national competition in Atlanta, Georgia on April 27-29. The team is still seeking sponsorships to support participation in the championships; call Sandra Scott at (916) 781-6244.

According to teacher and coach Stephen Miller, the students learn from the building process as well as the competition. "The team benefits from the cooperation with Sierra College because the sponsorship enables the team to continue the learning process," said Miller. "When building the robot, the students learned about engineering. At the FIRST regional competition in Davis, the students really just began to see how all the mechanisms work together. In the national championships, they can apply their knowledge to make the robot function better in the game."



Shape Your Future Workforce

If you are experiencing a shortage of employees with adequate math and technical skills, you aren't alone. According to the US Department of Education, "almost half of 17-year-olds do not have the basic understanding of math needed to qualify for a production associate's job at a modern auto plant." Today, fewer high school students have access to technical education courses than they did 35 years ago. So, what can you do? Sierra College CACT is seeking corporate partners to engage K-12 students in math and science, excite them about technical careers and fill the pipeline with future employees. Call Sandra Scott at (916) 781-6244 for more information.



Rapid Prototype Demonstration May 5 in Roseville



Learn how to use cost cutting digital design tools when you attend the CACT no-cost demonstration and workshop on May 5 in Roseville. Businesses that design products or components can gain a competitive advantage by using solid modeling, rapid prototyping, document control and concurrent engineering.

Solid modeling allows you to digitally develop all the parts of a product into an assembly and simulate the exact intended motion. Rapid prototyping produces 3D working parts that can be assembled and installed to get a real picture of the product's fit, form and function. Document control systems organize, manage and control designs, revisions, notes, approvals and work flow. Concurrent engineering shortens development time by actively involving multiple departments from design conceptualization to the final product release.

For more information about the May 5 workshop in Roseville, a demonstration at your worksite, or customized training for employees, call Judy Schmidt at (916) 781-6288 or e-mail judithschmidt@sierracollege.edu.

Roseville Trainers Gain New Tools

To help City of Roseville (roseville.ca.us) supervisors and trainers refine their teaching skills, the agency engaged Sierra College Training & Development to put on two "Train the Trainers" courses providing 20 hours of training. The course reviewed adult learning principles, recommended techniques for creating meaningful course content and gave guidelines for choosing the training method best suited to the audience. With these new tools, participants are now better equipped to transfer knowledge and skills to other employees.

CACT Advisory Board meets April 26

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Center for Applied Competitive Technologies Advisory Board, or submitting ideas on how Sierra College can support employers with workforce development or technology deployment, call Sandra Scott at (916)781-6244.

Harris Bruno visits Mechatronics

Nick Bruno, President of Harris Bruno (harris-bruno.com) in Roseville, a global provider of high performance printing and coating solutions, recently visited the Sierra College new Mechatronics (RealSkillsRealJobs.com) program to assess how well the curriculum fit with the company's needs for technical skills.

"I was very impressed with the Mechatronics program at Sierra," Said Bruno. "Not only is the program exactly what specialized equipment manufacturers like ourselves need, but the enthusiasm and dedication from the staff was heart warming. It's enlightening to see the educational system realize that there is tremendous value and more lucrative careers in manufacturing than the service sector. Value added technology jobs must stay in this country if we are to keep our position as a global leader."

Mechatronics is the study of mechanics, electronics, hydraulics and pneumatics under computer control. Mechatronics is used to design, build and maintain robots, cars, ATM's, gaming machines, ski lifts, building controls, medical systems and automated manufacturing equipment.

