

March 30-31 Robotics Competition in Davis



See how young people are being inspired to consider science and technology careers by attending the FIRST (usfirst.org) Robotics Regional Competition in Davis on March 30 and 31

(firstsac.engineering.ucdavis.edu).

The South Placer Robotics Team is supported by the Sierra College Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT) as well as other businesses and individuals. Students involved in the club get real time experience in electronics, pneumatics, welding, construction, programming, marketing, design, and community relations.

The students had six weeks to design and build a robot within certain specifications to solve a problem.

This year, the robots will put inner tubes on bars and perform other tasks to gain points.

On-line tools

Supply Chain Management web sites with information, tools and guides:

- www.ism.ws
- www.leanscm.net
- www.supply-chain.org

Lean Manufacturing information is available at:

- www.superfactory.com
- www.epa.gov/lean

Technical Training Customized

Energy Absorption Systems (www.energyabsorption.com) selected CACT to present 16 hours of customized training in December 2006. The company develops crash cushion impact protection for highway, work zones and railroad intersections. The training covered geometric dimension and tolerance, documentation basics, and welding and electrical conventions. According to Keith Mortensen, Supervisor, Technical Services, the informative, high energy presentations resulted in positive employee feedback. "Along with the technical information gained, I believe your training inspired renewed commitment for meaningful dialog between departments," said Mortensen.



Chris Flores, Scott Simons and Scott DeFevere participate in an in-class exercise at NEC Electronics America, Inc.

Better Business Writing

In January, Sierra College CACT instructor Dennis Wade conducted two classes on "Strategies for Better Business Writing" for 18 NEC Electronics America, Inc. employees. Each one-day workshop focused on improving employees' communication skills used in everyday writing for memos, emails, directives and reports. This course has been offered three times and has consistently received high ratings for the instructor, program content and job applicability.

Customized Employee Training

Train your employees in supervision, communication, business math, soldering, process improvement and other topics listed at www.sierracollegegetraining.com. Call (916) 781-6288 to find out how we customize on-site training to meet your needs.

Free Consultation

Small manufacturers can now receive up to four hours of free private consultation with a manufacturing expert through the Manufacturers Assistance Program (MAP). For more information go to www.sierracollegegetraining.com/cact.php or call your local Small Business Development Center:

- Lassen, Nevada, Modoc, Placer, Plumas and Sierra counties – Sierra College SBDC, call **530-885-5488** or go to www.sbdcsierra.org.
- Alpine, Amador, Calaveras and San Joaquin counties – San Joaquin Delta College SBDC, call **209-954-5089** or go to www.sbdcdeltacollege.edu.
- Butte, Glenn and Tehama counties – Butte College SBDC, call **530-895-9017** or go to www.bcsbdc.org.
- Colusa, Lake, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties - Yuba College SBDC, call **530-749-0153** or visit www.yubasbdc.org.

Tying Education to Business



Jon Stallman instructs high school CAD teachers.

On January 20, the CACT's Mechanical Engineering Consultant, Jon Stallman, presented a solid modeling software and rapid prototyping workshop to 20 high school teachers from throughout the state. They used the CACT's rapid prototyping demonstration machine. Now several of the Chico high schools are jointly purchasing a rapid prototyping machine to integrate into their drafting and design technology courses.

On February 23, Ceronix (www.ceronix.com), of Auburn invited Sierra College faculty to see how the skills they teach are being used on-the-job. Ceronix produces custom, high-resolution color video-display monitors for the gaming, medical equipment, banking, bowling, automotive diagnostics, and lottery amusement industries.

In April, Carpenter Advanced Ceramics (www.carttech.com) will open its doors to 30 El Camino High School students so they can see how Solid Works is used to design and produce custom parts.



Don Whitaker, CEO, Ceronix (center) gave a tour to Sierra College faculty.

To attract college students to your company, you can join the Sierra College Mentor Network. You can speak to classes or invite individual students to visit your business to talk with you or job shadow employees. To learn more about how you can help students research careers contact Sierra College Career Connections: **916-789-2617** or visit: www.sierracollege.edu/careerconnections.