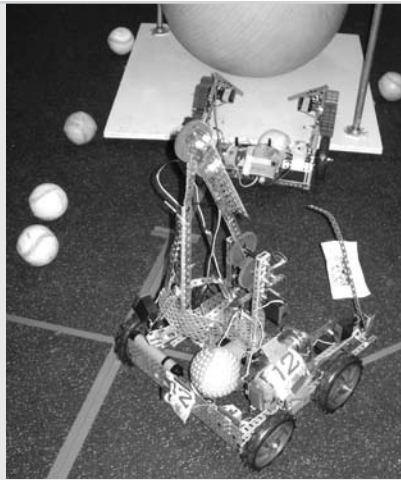


Robotics Club Encourages Technical Careers

Students who build robots learn by doing, by working with technical mentors and by seeing practical application of classroom theory. The experience is likely to lead them into technical careers with local businesses.



Oakmont and Granite Bay high school students' small robots competed in December.

To support the South Placer FIRST (USFIRST.org) Robotics team, Intel committed \$6200 and Sierra College CACT is providing technical assistance and other resources. The club is seeking mentors with electrical, programming in C+, pneumatics, mechanics, and chassis and drive systems experience. The team is still looking for monetary donations and a TIG Welder, CNC mini mill, plasma cutter, metal shears and various parts that can be used on their robot.

Contact Carol Pepper-Kittredge at Sierra College CACT (916)781-6288 or go to SierraCollegeTraining.com.

Train Your Staff in 2007

By offering employee training at your worksite on the topics tailored to your industry, Sierra College can help you meet your goals in 2007. Courses include supervisory skills, communication, MS Office software, business math, process improvement and many more listed at SierraCollegeTraining.com. Sierra College Training & Development and the Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT) will work with you to customize the course to meet your needs. Contact us at (916) 781-6288 or training@sierracollege.edu.

New Videos on Website

To find out more about our Technology Transfer programs, you can now view mini-movies at SierraCollegeTraining.com. There is also a video on promoting technical careers. Carpenter Advanced Ceramics and Harris & Bruno International generously provided access to their facilities so Sierra College could produce these videos.

Training Customized

Rocklin-based Energy Absorption Systems, Inc. (EAS) (energyabsorption.com) employees participated in a demonstration of rapid prototyping concepts, systems, uses and direct applications with CACT engineering consultant Jon Stallman. An EAS-designed part was produced on the CACT's rapid prototyping machine and used as part of the discussion. In December, Stallman delivered customized training in geometric dimensioning and tolerance, documentation basics, welding and electrical conventions.



EAS staff watches a part being made in the CACT Rapid Prototype Printer.



CACT
Centers for Applied Competitive Technologies
California Community Colleges

State Employees Implement Process Improvement

The California Office of State Publishing engaged Sierra College CACT to train 258 employees in process improvement. Staff learned how to document their processes with Value Stream Mapping, improve communication with Visual Controls, reduce waste with Five S, work on a Kaizen team to streamline processes and achieve a Lean Manufacturing environment.

CACT consultant, David Jones, conducted 26 workshops on five different topics for participants on three shifts. Five Kaizen Teams met, with goals to reduce downtime, improve quality and increase productivity. Teams estimated that they could achieve a 98% reduction in the distance an employee needed to travel for job clarification, cut equipment downtime by 80% and reduce wasted time by 95%.

IPC Soldering Taught

Northrop Grumman Corporation (northropgrumman.com), a global defense company, brought in Sierra College CACT a second time to teach IPC Soldering Workmanship Standards. Employee comments included: "Lots of hands on experience," "Instructor was very knowledgeable," and "The instructor inspected the soldering and told me where improvement was needed."

Technical Writing Class Delivered

NEC Electronics America worked with Sierra College CACT to design Technical Writing training for NEC Electronics America employees charged with writing work instructions for the production department. Sierra College instructor, Dennis Wade, customized the course to use NEC Electronics America's standard internal template. Then, based on employees' needs, the class reviewed writing skills and techniques.

On evaluations of those surveyed for the four classes provided by Sierra College in Technical Writing and Systematic Problem Solving for NEC Electronics America employees, 98% agreed that the training was relevant to their jobs, 95% reported learning new skills and 92% said that they could apply the training to their jobs.



Jes Vargas explains Rabbit Semiconductor's process to Judy Schmidt, Sierra College CACT.

Staff Tour Rabbit Semiconductor

Rabbit Semiconductor in Davis, CA, (rabbitsemiconductor.com) a Digi International, Inc. company is a fabless semiconductor company specializing in high-performance 8-bit microprocessors and development tools for embedded control, communications, and Ethernet connectivity, recently toured Sierra College CACT staff around its innovative, highly flexible and low volume facility. Orders are manufactured onsite using a dedicated "Flex Line" that produces, tests and packages the order within a 48-hour window. Jes Vargas, Director of Operations, is a new member of the CACT Advisory Board and will be a CACT consultant in 2007.



Sierra College CACT trained Carpenter Advanced Ceramics (caceramics.com) employees in using SolidWorks for Solid Modeling and worked with them to develop a modeling methodology system standard.