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Telefunken relies on Sierra College for Mechatronics Training

Employees gain a deeper understanding of the automated equipment they maintain

ROCKLIN – Sierra College partnered with Telefunken Semiconductors International LLC to enhance the skills of employees who produce integrated circuits for the automotive industry at the plant in Roseville, CA. Through the Sierra College Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT – www.sierracollegeetraining.com), the company contracted for 22 employees to receive Mechatronics training.

According to director of manufacturing, Matthew Nadeau, the Sierra College Mechatronics program -- a study of mechanics, electronics, pneumatics and hydraulics under computer control -- offers a pathway to advancement. “A certificate or AA/AS degree in Mechatronics or Electronics provides our production technicians with knowledge and skills that are needed in order to be considered for promotion to the next level,” said Nadeau. “Our research showed that the Mechatronics program at Sierra College best matched our internal needs.”

The Sierra College Mechatronics program is one of only a few in the nation and highly regarded for its rigor and applied learning labs using over \$1 million in industrial quality equipment, explained Tony Osladil, Mechatronics Department Chair and instructor for the Telefunken training. “Mechatronics graduates have been scooped up by local employers such as Anheuser Busch, Ceronix, City of Roseville, Kirkwood Mountain Resort, Michrom Bioresources, Nestle Water Bottling, Schilling Robotics, Sierra Pacific Industry, Vannelli Foods and many others,” said Osladil. “For students, the Mechatronics skills can be used in a variety of industries and work environments to design, maintain and repair automated equipment; these are well paid jobs that are here to stay.”

According to Nadeau, the popularity of the Mechatronics program led Telefunken to contract with Sierra College to offer the class for Telefunken employees. “More production technicians were able to enroll by working with CACT to arrange for a dedicated course,” said Nadeau. “We met with the instructor who recommended that we offer Mechatronics 4 to start out. This is a hands-on class and that enabled our employees to adjust back to the classroom environment more easily.”

Employee feedback has been very positive explained Nadeau. “The employees who have taken this class have shown an increased level of interest in their daily tasks,” said Nadeau. “They now have a better understanding of ‘what’s behind’ the systems and components. Technicians are also motivated by getting closer to meeting the requirements for promotion to the next level within our company.”

Nadeau says that the partnership has been successful. “We look forward to continuing this type of educational program for our employees with Sierra CACT,” said Nadeau. “We are very pleased with the results.”

For more information about Mechatronics, go to www.realskillsrealjobs.com and for Sierra College CACT Training & Development, go to www.sierracollegeetraining.com, call (916) 660-7517 or email training@sierracollege.edu.

Sierra College CACT also offers on-site customized employee training in topics such as high-tech soldering, supervision, communication, business math and project management. Since 1992, Sierra College CACT has worked with businesses, manufacturers and technology companies in Northern California to increase productivity. For more information, go to www.sierracollegeetraining.com or contact Carol Pepper-Kittredge at 916-660-7517 or cpepper-kittredge@sierracollege.edu.

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