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Workforce Development

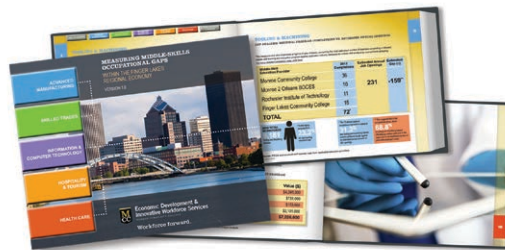
June 2015

Monroe Community College is a national model for meaningful collaborations with employers and for job-training programs that align with local employment opportunities. MCC's approach to our region's current and emerging workforce needs is to ground strategies in local labor market data. For example, MCC's Division of Economic Development and Innovative Workforce Services has produced several reports aimed at increasing the community's awareness of the mismatch between labor market demand and supply, and at guiding MCC's investments in education and training programs. Through educational innovation and public-private partnerships, MCC provides diverse learners with clear paths to sustaining careers, helping businesses stay competitive and contributing to our local economy.

MCC's New Report Provides Picture of Region's Labor Market

To further engage stakeholders in bridging the middle-skills gap, MCC has produced an interactive report that quantifies current and projected labor shortages and surpluses across five key workforce clusters within the Finger Lakes region.

"Measuring Middle-Skills Occupational Gaps Within the Finger Lakes Regional Economy" covers select occupational groups within these workforce clusters: information and computer technology, advanced manufacturing, skilled trades, health care, and hospitality and tourism. It uses various labor market and workforce intelligence sources,



integrating traditional and real-time labor market data.

An economic impact analysis associated with MCC's academic programs is included for 12 of the occupational groups. It highlights the economic value of upskilling an individual with a high school education

working full time for a middle-skill career requiring postsecondary education.

Replete with videos, charts and graphs, the 188-page web-based report also introduces readers to careers available in each industry, identifies skills in greatest demand for 23 occupational groups and provides a wage curve. Additionally, it estimates the percentage of workers approaching retirement age within 10 years for each occupational group.

For this report and MCC's other studies on the economic impact of its academic programs, go to www.workforceforward.com/reports.

Accelerated Training Graduates Land Jobs

As part of Opportunity Agenda, MCC's accelerated precision tooling certificate program is enabling Greater Rochester residents in high-poverty communities to gain education and hands-on training in advanced manufacturing, earn a certificate in half the time, and find employment within a year.

Opportunity Agenda is a coordinated approach by the Regional Economic Development Councils to create college and career opportunities for low-income residents. The MCC training program won state funding in 2013.

Nine individuals completed the six-month training program in February.

Among them is Patricio Siaca, 31, who

entered the workforce after graduating from high school. "I just didn't get pushed into college by my parents," he said. Over the years, he held various jobs ranging from factory equipment operator to retail management and was a victim of company restructuring at one time. Now a father of two young children, he is employed as a CNC operator at RotaDyne.

Developed in response to local manufacturers' immediate need for skilled workers, the training program serves unemployed or underemployed individuals, including military veterans, in collaboration with the Rochester Technology and Manufacturing Association. Upon completing the program, they receive job placement assistance.



Patricio Siaca, left, and Geneo Brown, both of Rochester, graduated from MCC's accelerated tooling program and became the first in their families to earn a college credential.

Of the 37 graduates since the program's inception in 2013, at least 70 percent have found jobs; several are in the interview process or enrolled in MCC. The program welcomed a new group of participants in early June.



Monroe Community College

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

MCC's Role in Information Technology Expands

As our region experiences a persistent labor shortage in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields, MCC has ramped up efforts to bridge the growing gap in the STEM workforce pipeline. Here are several initiatives through which MCC inspires high school students and job seekers to pursue information technology (IT) careers.

- As part of President Obama's new **TechHire Community** initiative, the City of Rochester is teaming up with MCC to provide accelerated education and hands-on training toward a certificate in information technology.

Rochester is one of 21 regions chosen to participate in the national effort to "expand access to tech jobs" and fill over 500,000 job openings in the field.

The TechHire public-private initiative, which will make available \$100 million in grants to the participating regions, calls for working with local employers to create a program that provides short-term IT training, paid internships and job placement assistance.



A boy peers through a lens as he learns about optics manufacturing during High-Tech Exploration Night at MCC. The event, which drew more than 500 attendees, was one of many opportunities at MCC for students to become acquainted with engineering/technology professions and the educational programs that will prepare them for these careers.

- **Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH)** in Rochester—a collaboration among MCC, the Rochester City School District, BOCES and community business partners—opened

with 104 ninth-graders on the district's Edison Campus in fall 2014.

The program extends the traditional high school model through the associate degree level, preparing students for careers in information and network technology through classroom learning, internships and business mentors. Through P-TECH Rochester, students will earn their associate degrees at no cost and will be connected to job openings.

- In response to employers' increased demand for IT workers, MCC will offer an **associate degree program** in information and network technology starting in fall 2015.

The program will provide a broad-based foundation in IT and includes specializations in cybersecurity, computer networking and cloud computing. Each track will allow students an opportunity to build on their degree and earn additional credentials.

The program prepares students for immediate employment upon graduation.

MCC Student Goes From Manufacturing to Mars Mission

When the first Mars rovers were launched in 2003, MCC student Joseph M. Serio played a role in NASA history. He helped build lenses for the robotic vehicles as part of his work at Optimax Systems.



In spring 2015, Joseph reconnected with the space agency as a participant in the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars program.

He was among 240 U.S. community college students chosen to take part in the five-week program, which culminated with a three-day event in May at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. Students had the opportunity to interact with NASA engineers as they worked in teams to each develop and test a prototype rover.

"This experience introduced me to alternative methods of problem-solving which I can then apply at Optimax," said Joseph, who was recently promoted to a supervisory role.

Beside and above his recent achievements, Joseph is determined to earn an associate

degree in optical systems technology. The 37-year-old Webster resident began working full time for Optimax immediately after high school. Now with encouragement and financial support from Optimax, he is balancing part-time studies and his full-time job.

"Technology-based companies, like Optimax, must be learning organizations to ensure long-term prosperity. Partnering with colleges, like MCC, supports this mission," said Mike Mandina, president of Optimax. "They are always in regular contact with employers to increase incumbent worker skills and competence."

Contact MCC

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