

"Even if you're on the right track you'll get run over if you just sit there"

- Will Rogers

## Workplace Learning can Lead to an Associate Degree

In January 2007, the Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Board of Trustees approved a new Associate of Applied Science Degree; the **Occupational/Technical Studies Degree**. The degree path is specifically designed to aid students who have participated in apprenticeship programs, structured on-the-job development programs and professional development activities to apply the college credit equivalencies towards a degree. The program aids business by evaluating the workplace learning programs they have developed for potential college credit. (There is no charge for this evaluation.) Once an evaluation is complete, an employee can simply present verification of satisfactory completion to KVCC and the credits are applied to their transcript. (A one time \$15 processing fee will apply.) **We are please to report that 5 students have already graduated as a result of this new program.**

Recently, two Pfizer employees were able to take advantage of this degree program and offered their thoughts about their experience.

Tiffany Ayers, a full-time chemical operator, was working toward a college degree while raising two children. The program allowed her to take such a giant step forward that she attended graduation ceremonies in April. "The in-depth, comprehensive and certified training that I have been receiving at Pfizer translated into 30 hours of college credit," she said. "That put me way over the top for receiving an associate's and now I have a better view of the path toward a four-year degree."

John Fuller's spare time is scarce with five children and a full-time chemical operator's position. He left college to help manage his parents' business. John said, "I'd taken some KVCC courses off and on, but not enough to qualify for a degree until I learned about the degree in **Occupational/Technical Studies**. In all, I've gone through 35 to 40 months of fairly intensive training at Pfizer, and much of that was applicable to a new degree. It is a tremendous opportunity."

To find out how to have a workplace learning and development activity evaluated for college credit contact Cindy Buckley, M-TEC at KVCC, 269/353-1250, [cbuckely@kvcc.edu](mailto:cbuckely@kvcc.edu) For details about how this program may help you to earn your degree, contact Colleen Olson, Prior Learning Assessment Office, at 269/488-4744 or [colson@kvcc.edu](mailto:colson@kvcc.edu).

## Manufacturers' Breakfast Forum – Michigan Energy Initiatives

Plan on attending June 8th to participate in this timely discussion. John Sarver, Supervisor of Consumer Education Programs, Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth - Energy Office, plans to share the latest information on the state's energy initiatives that impact the manufacturing sector.

Even though the United States is much more energy-efficient today than it was 25 years ago, there is still enormous potential for cost-effective energy savings. Three walk-through energy audits have been donated by The Energy Concern. **We will draw three (3) business cards from those in attendance to find the winners.**

The Quarterly [Manufacturers' Breakfast](#) is an opportunity for networking and information sharing. Any area manufacturing company is welcome and encouraged to attend. Please share an invitation to attend with others interested in the retention and growth of manufacturing in the region.

A Breakfast is provided by our sponsor National City Bank. Register on-line at [www.mteckvcc.com](http://www.mteckvcc.com) to help us plan for the refreshments and facility.

## Steel My Summer- a Manufacturing Day Camp for 12-16 Yr Olds

In partnership with Education for Employment and the YWCA, "[Steel My Summer](#)" was created and offers an exciting opportunity to promote the manufacturing trades! KVCC has been awarded a grant from the **Fabricators & Manufacturers Association Foundation** and **Nuts, Bolts, and Thingamajigs Foundation** to put together a summer manufacturing day camp for students ages 12 - 16.

The campers will create a car by using CAD technology to blueprint the product; CAM software to program the CNC machines; machining, forming and bending processes to create the parts; and final assembly using mechanical fasteners and welding. The cars will be able to run via remote control. Also, guest speakers, representing a diverse workforce, will reinforce the fact that manufacturing can be high tech and challenging rather than dirty and low paying. One entire day will be dedicated to touring local manufacturing facilities.

The camp will be held at the KVCC Texas Township Campus from June 25-29th. [Click here](#) to view the Flyer and Registration form or visit our website at [www.mteckvcc.com](http://www.mteckvcc.com) under **Programs**. Help us spread the word to interested youth. Encourage them to fill out the application, send it in and join in the fun! If you are interested in "helping out", or have any questions about the camp please contact Debbie Dawson, Dean of Business and Advanced Technology, at 269/488-4219 or [ddawson@kvcc.edu](mailto:ddawson@kvcc.edu).

## M-TEC Incubator Company Graduates to Downtown

Established in October 2003 by former Pfizer Inc. researchers, Patricia Ruppel and James Dancy, [Innovative Analytics](#) was the first start-up enterprise to locate in the second-floor incubator of M-TEC in February 2004. **Innovative Analytics** applied for and received a grant to provide data management and statistical analysis services for clinical, pharmacogenomic and biomarker research trials. By the end of 2006, Innovative Analytic's gross revenue exceeded \$1 million and they began 2007 with 10 full-time staff members and 6 part-timers.

"We are running out of space" said Patty Ruppel, who is president of the start-up, "and we are anticipating more growth." Innovative Analytics leased the 6,500 square foot, fifth floor of The Haymarket building in downtown Kalamazoo for occupation mid-February. They plan to add three more full-time employees over the next 3-4 months. "While the M-TEC location was perfect for us and is a beautiful setting in KVCC's The Groves," said Jim Dancy, vice president of operations, "we liked the idea of being back downtown, which is where we had worked for Pfizer."

## The Automotive Academy – Don't Delay. Apply Now!

***Applications are being accepted NOW for a start date of September 4, 2007. Only 18 students will be admitted to the program.***

M-TEC is launching a new initiative for Kalamazoo Valley Community College. [The Automotive Academy](#), a 10-month **accelerated training program**, is our latest innovation to provide a fast track to employment as an Automotive Technician. The automotive service industry is facing a serious shortage of qualified Automotive Technicians. Local industry leaders have contributed to the design of this full-time program which allows students to complete the entire career training program in **less than one year**. The instructor will blend class room time with hands-on application and practice of theory in our state-of-the art labs. Real work, on real automobiles, will prepare students for the wide range of situations they will encounter in the field. The curriculum for the Automotive Academy is based on the recommendations of the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE).

Students will develop the fundamental skills needed to succeed in the workplace along with valuable hands-on experience. Training includes brakes, suspension, emissions, transmission, electrical systems, heating/air conditioning, power trains and engine management systems.

"Keep changing, because when you're through changing, you're through."

-Bert-Olaf Svanholm

"If at first you don't succeed, before you try again, stop to figure out what you did wrong."

- Leo Rosten

### **The Program fees provide each student with:**

- Over 1200 hours of Professional Instruction
- Complete set of Professional Grade Tools valued at \$7,000
- Books & Academy Uniforms

For additional information about **The Automotive Academy**, contact Charlie Fuller ([dfuller@kvcc.edu](mailto:dfuller@kvcc.edu)), Director of Advanced Technology Career Academies at 269/488-4178, Cindy Buckley, M-TEC's Director of Training & Development ([cbuckley@kvcc.edu](mailto:cbuckley@kvcc.edu)) at 269/353-1250 or visit [www.mteckvcc.com/autoacademy.htm](http://www.mteckvcc.com/autoacademy.htm)

## **Spanish in the Workplace**

The rapid growth of the Spanish speaking people in this region's workforce has created critical communication challenges for business, government and education. These language barriers can result in serious accidents, quality mistakes, and poor service where it matters most – in the workplace.

Workplace Spanish<sup>®</sup> programs are designed to cut through language barriers by enabling adults to communicate, simply but effectively, with Spanish speaking co-workers, customers or citizens. No grammar, no language rules, no prior Spanish experience necessary.

M-TEC is pleased to assist in breaking down the barriers by offering several job-specific programs including Workplace Spanish<sup>®</sup> for Construction Supervisors, Workplace Spanish<sup>®</sup> for Human Resources, and Workplace Spanish<sup>®</sup> for Manufacturing. Interested in Spanish instruction but don't see your industry listed? Please contact Lesa Ward ([lward@kvcc.edu](mailto:lward@kvcc.edu)) at 269/353-1265 to discuss your training needs. Visit [www.mteckvcc.com](http://www.mteckvcc.com) for complete program details and to register.

## **M-TEC Welcomes A New Tenant**

**CYNTECH CORPORATION** specializes in providing Information Technology consulting services to the Federal Government and its Defense Contractors. Founded in 2002, this privately owned business expanded in 2005 to include private sector businesses and program management deliverables. Cyntech also provides website, software development capabilities, and integrated staffing solutions that meet your evolving needs and priorities for long-term projects. Our professional staff of talented and dedicated consultants will help you identify, articulate and provide opportunities to improve IT efficiency and effectiveness within your organization.

Cyntech became a member of the Kalamazoo Region Chamber of Commerce Small Business Certification Program in 2004. Our primary goal is to become a recognized leader of Technical Consulting Services and maintain 100% satisfaction levels from clients for quality and customer service.

For more information about Cyntech Corporation, contact Cynthia Armour, President and CEO, at 269/488-8930. You can also visit their website at [www.cyntech.net](http://www.cyntech.net).

## **Six Sigma and Lean Manufacturing**

M-TEC at KVCC is considering an exciting new opportunity. The series of short programs are designed to increase the capacity of manufacturers to fully implement the principles of **Six Sigma and Lean Manufacturing**. These programs can be used for training individuals seeking professional development in LEAN Six Sigma and/or as preparation for the ASQ Green Belt/Black Belt certification exam (offered separately). The program also can be used for training individuals whose employer has embarked upon deployment of Six Sigma within the company. Before moving forward, we need to check in with you to determine the level of interest and need in the region. This link "[Six Sigma and Lean Manufacturing Survey](#)" will guide you to an on-line survey. It should not require more than 3-5 minutes to complete. You can also reach this link through our website at [www.mteckvcc.com](http://www.mteckvcc.com) under **Training**.

"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way"

- John C. Maxwell

We are anxious to hear from you. Please call Cindy Buckley (269) 353-1250 or email at [cbuckley@kvcc.edu](mailto:cbuckley@kvcc.edu) if you have any questions or wish to discuss this exciting new program.

## **New Classes at KVCC: GD&T and 3D Modeling/SolidWorks**

Dean Deborah Dawson has hit the ground running. She has initiated and inspired many new projects since joining KVCC in the Fall of 2006. Two new courses in GD&T and 3D Modeling were developed in response to feedback she's received from industry regarding worker skill requirements.

DRFT 283 is a new 3 credit class devoted to the study of Geometric Dimensioning & Tolerancing (GD&T.) Students will learn GD&T terminology, symbology and language. This course teaches how to interpret and utilize GD&T symbols and modifiers to define and communicate the "Functional Design Intent" of components and assemblies utilizing GD&T based on ASME Y14.5M-1994 Standard (American Society of Mechanical Engineers.) There are prerequisites.

DRFT 280 Solidworks is a new 4 credit class that teaches the student how to use the mechanical design software SolidWorks to build parametric solid and surface models of components and assemblies. This 3D Modeling course will incorporate useful design tools, including Finite Element Analysis (FEA), to provide students with skills they can take directly to the workplace. There are prerequisites.

These classes were added after the catalogs were printed so please consult the KVCC website [www.kvcc.edu](http://www.kvcc.edu) for more information or contact Deborah Dawson by phone 269/488-4219 or email [ddawson@kvcc.edu](mailto:ddawson@kvcc.edu).

## **Customer Spotlight**

"**UNIFAB CORPORATION** recognizes the importance Lean principles play in today's competitive markets," said Unifab's Gary Franklin, Director, Fabrication. "Having implemented ISO 9001/2000 over the past two years, Unifab is aggressively putting lean-experienced staff in place, as well as training the entire work force, on Lean principles to meet future challenges and growth potential."

"Thanks to M-TEC and the training grant we have received through MEDC, we have recently completed the first phase of our training plan by giving our employees the opportunity to gain an understanding of Lean through participation in a Lean Simulation. The response was great! Everyone enjoyed the session and now each has a better understanding of the culture we are seeking to establish."

Unifab, established in 1940, is located in Portage, Michigan, and are experts in light gage aluminum, steel and stainless steel fabrication. Their customers include truck body components, display fixtures, cabinets/enclosures, aerospace/defense and many more. In addition to contract fabrication, Unifab serves the Biomedical and lab equipment industry with custom-engineered products, including their own product line of equipment, to meet industry needs. For more information, visit their website at [www.unifabcorp.com](http://www.unifabcorp.com).

## **Michigan High Throughput Screening Center Triples Client Size**

The [Michigan High Throughput Screening Center \(MHTSC\)](#), located on the second floor of Kalamazoo Valley Community College's M-TEC, may not be able to disclose the names of many of the center's current clients because of confidentiality agreements, but they include government institutions, university researchers, large pharmaceutical companies and small biotech companies, such as 4-yr old PharmOptima of Kalamazoo and the VanAndel Institute of Grand Rapids. "Our first screening using the Michigan High Throughput Screening Center's compound collection was very successful and has revealed a series of novel compounds which may result in a new cancer therapeutic" said George F. Vande Woude, Ph.D., VanAndel Research Director.

"Adopting the right attitude can convert a negative stress into a positive one."

-Hans Selye

Through its membership in a statewide network of advanced technology facilities, MHTSC landed an agreement last August to help support Schering-Plough Corp's drug-discovery efforts. "We're helping to establish Kalamazoo as a life-science-based community and the state of Michigan as a life-science corridor by having clients like Schering Plough and various institutes and universities," said Jim DeHaven, Vice President for Economic and Business Development at KVCC.

## This Issue's Featured Training Highlights

Employers have long recognized the development of workplace skills as essential for creating and maintaining a competitive advantage. Jobs become increasingly more complex making training and retraining even more important. Following are some of M-TEC's current offerings.

[Fundamentals of GD&T](#)  
[Managing Difficult Personalities: Confronting Undesirable Behaviors](#)  
[Workplace Spanish® for Manufacturing](#)  
[Fundamentals of Front Line Leadership Program](#)  
[Gage R and R](#)  
[Residential Builders License Exam Prep Course](#)  
[Managing Conflict Through Effective Communication](#)  
[Managing Projects](#)  
[Facilitating Team Efforts- Empowering Team Members](#)  
[Workplace Spanish® for Human Resources](#)

[Follow this link](#) to search the entire list of M-TEC training events. For complete program descriptions or to register on-line, please visit <http://www.mteckvcc.com>. We maintain a one-page [Course Offering](#) list which is easily downloaded.

We hope you have found the information contained in this newsletter to be useful. Share your comments...we'd like to hear from you. If you wish to unsubscribe, please send an e-mail to [mtec@kvcc.edu](mailto:mtec@kvcc.edu) with the word NEWSLETTER UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line and your email address in the body.

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For Your Next Conference, Seminar, Training or Business Meeting



**M-TEC**  
**Michigan Technical Education Center**  
At The Groves • Kalamazoo Valley Community College



Visit Us at [www.mteckvcc.com](http://www.mteckvcc.com)  
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# M-TEC Offerings



*Giving Business a  
Competitive Edge*

## M-TEC

at KVCC in The Groves

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Visit: [www.mteckvcc.com](http://www.mteckvcc.com)  
for information on:

- course offerings
- events
- on-line registration
- facility rental & directions



### May 2007

Fundamentals of Front Line Leadership  
Managing Projects - **SOLD OUT**  
Understanding Workplace Computers  
Introduction to Microsoft Word 2003

<u>Date</u>	<u>Price</u>
May 8-June 20	\$650/550
May 9	\$250
May 14-15	\$250
May 22	\$189

### June 2007

Managing Difficult Personalities; Confronting Undesirable Behaviors  
Metals 101 Overview  
Workplace Spanish® for Manufacturing  
Introduction to Microsoft Excel 2003  
Manufacturers' Breakfast Forum  
Introduction to Microsoft PowerPoint 2003  
Residential Builders License Exam Preparation  
Managing Projects  
Managing Conflict through Effective Communication

June 5	\$295
June 5	\$95
June 5-19	\$175
June 6	\$189
June 8	<b>FREE</b>
June 11	\$189
June 19-28	\$175
June 26	\$250
June 27	\$295

### July 2007

Workplace Spanish® for Human Resources  
Fundamentals of Front Line Leadership  
Facilitating Team Efforts: Empowering Team Members

July 9-Aug 1	\$175
July 17-Aug 22	\$650/550
July 18	\$295

### August 2007

Gage R&R  
Workplace Spanish® for Construction

Aug 20	\$150
Dates TBA	\$175

### September 2007

KVCC Automotive Academy  
Estimating Measurement Uncertainty

Sep 4-Jul 1 '08	\$7000
Sept 11-25	\$430

Travel costs too high? Ask us how Video Conferencing can help.