



Media & Community Relations

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GCCC Responds to Need for Highly-Specialized Job Training

Panama City, FL – The Technology Division at Gulf Coast Community College recently developed a new certificate program and is growing an existing Associate in Applied Science degree program.

In response to increased demand from state and local employers, GCCC has created the new **Computer Integrated Manufacturing Technology certificate program**, which includes mobile laboratory kits that dramatically increase access to high-quality, hands-on training. Each mobile laboratory kit contains industrial computers, robotics equipment, and DVD course materials. For maximum flexibility and mobility, the entire kit can be shipped to employer sites anywhere to provide online and on-site training for up to 20 employees. According to Dean Eavey, Associate Professor with the Business and Technology Division, the certificate program will initially be marketed to Florida employers with future plans to target Alabama and Georgia markets. Local companies that have already sent personnel for CIM training at GCCC include Trane, Merrick Industries, and Tyndall Air Force Base.

The **Computer Integrated Manufacturing Technology (CIM-AAS) degree program** is gearing up for more students as interest continues to grow in computer automation and robotics. GCCC is one of only two Florida colleges currently offering CIM-AAS in a state that houses more than 16,500 manufacturing employers. The CIM program specializes in computer automation, robotics, and process control with emphasis on computer controlled systems for industrial manufacturing, system integration, instrumentation, simulation and animatronics. Graduates of this program are in high demand and able to pursue careers as process controls engineers/technicians, systems integrators, robotic technicians, industrial programmers or industrial sales engineers. Places of employment include manufacturing plants, military applications, theme park industries, water filtration and purification plants, just to name a few.

“We are so pleased with our new programs -- the new CIM program is innovative and



meets the need of manufacturing jobs,” said Dr. Jim Kerley, President. “Gulf Coast continues to address community and regional needs in a creative format, giving more hope and opportunity to more students.”

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