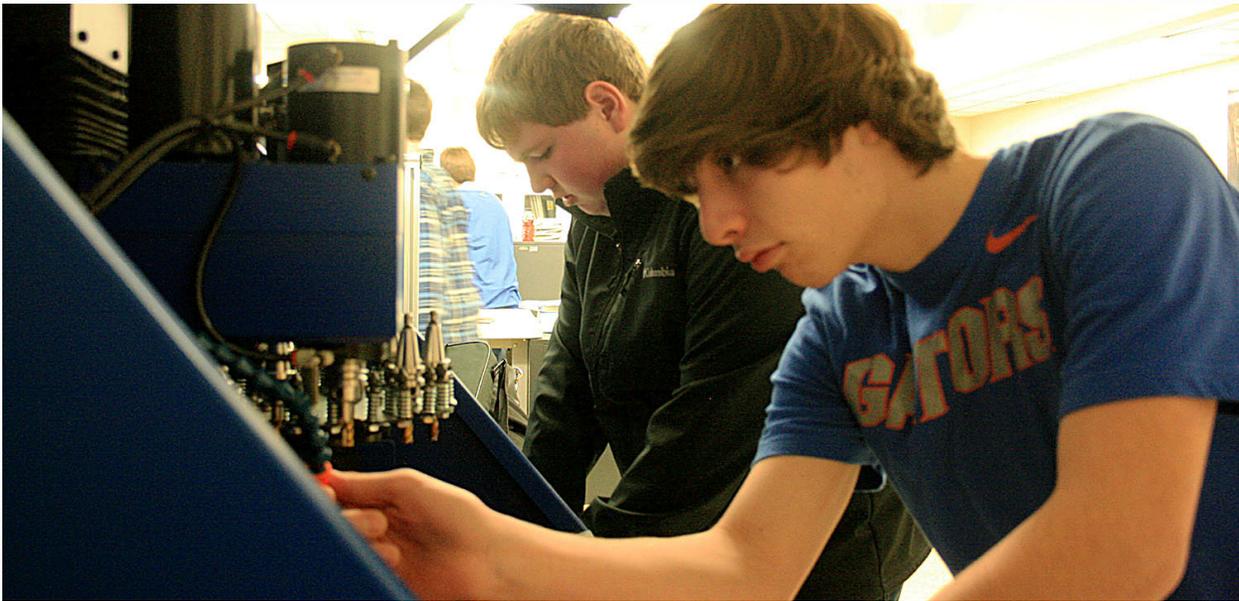




CASE STUDY

WSWHE BOCES and SUNY-Adirondack Community College



High School Program fills industry need for skilled graduates

A robust college experience for high school students

Adirondack Community College, part of State University of New York (SUNY), and WSWHE BOCES (Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex Board of Cooperative Educational Services) have teamed up in an innovative program to prepare students to be career- and college-ready. The Early College High School Program, part of a public-private partnership, takes a new approach to dual-enrollment. Instead of offering college-credit programs at their own high school campus, students are bussed to SUNY Adirondack's college campus for a half-day of courses co-taught by SUNY professors and the WSWHE BOCES high school CTE instructor.

This first-in-the-nation strategy delivers a robust college experience for high school students, with the goal of bolstering their skills and credentials upon graduation. Available starting in the junior year for students who pass the placement exam, participants can earn 7 credits each semester, up to 24 college credits by the end of the 2-year program.

Multiple pathways to success

The program provides multiple pathways to success for students. For students seeking direct-to-workforce employment, four industry certifications are available. The dual-enrollment credits also seamlessly integrate into Adirondack's Electrical Technology Associates degree program. Credits also transfer to any 2- or 4-year degree program.



Project-based learning prepares students for industry certification

Project-based learning is the backbone of this program, featuring hands-on activities with industrial-level manufacturing equipment. Intelitek, a global developer of career and technology training systems specializing in advanced manufacturing, provided curriculum for the program. Students can access online curriculum through an e-learning platform that guides them through projects using the classroom hardware in topics like CAD, precision measurement, mechanical systems and electrical systems.



The relevant curriculum helps connect students to relevant skills needed in the workforce, thus helping to meet the program's goal to connect the skills taught in the classroom with the needs of employers. To validate these skills, students also have the opportunity to earn industry certifications throughout the course. At the end of semester 1, students can take the MSSC Safety assessment; semester 2 leads to the Quality Practices & Measurement certification; Semester 3 -Manufacturing Processes & Production; and semester 4 prepares students for the Maintenance Awareness assessment.

"The Intelitek courses provide excellent exam prep for the MSSC assessments," says Gage Simpson, Career and Technology Instructor for the WSHWE BOCES. In order to teach the courses, Simpson needed to pass the same assessments.

SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher praised Early College High School's "innovative program that connects high school, college and the world of work, all aligned through a single challenging curriculum that keeps students focused, engaged and excited." Such a collaboration between industry and education can serve as a model for success.



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