



NEWS

El Camino College Compton Center
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El Camino College Compton Center Announces Completion Ceremony for First Aerospace Fastener Boot Camp

El Camino College Compton Center announced the start of the Aerospace Fastener Boot Camp Program on November 5, 2008. The first cohort of 23 students will have completed 320 hours of training during this 8-week program. To mark the occasion, a ceremony will take place on Friday, January 23, 2009 in the atrium of the Vocational Technology building at noon. The students qualify for a paid internship and job placement. The fastener training boot camp program is offered during Compton Center's winter session, with math skills and basic blueprint reading classes being added.

The demand for well-trained individuals in the aerospace fastener industry is increasing, with an estimated 200-400 workers needed each year for the next five years. In addition to aerospace fastener manufacturing--the mechanical joining of two or more objects, including bolts and rivets; is used in transportation, defense and construction industries. Southern California is home to numerous aerospace fastener manufacturers and distributors who employ more than 10,000 people. The industry plays a major role in economy of our region and the state of California.

This specialized training and education designed to meet the specific needs of the fastener industry is provided by the Centers for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT), and funded by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's office of economic and workforce development. There are 10 centers throughout the state.

According to David Gonzales, CACT director at El Camino College, there is no program like Compton Center's Aerospace Fastener Boot Camp in the western United States. The El Camino College District joined together industry partners with several workforce investment boards, forming the Aerospace Fastener Manufacturing Training Alliance (AFMTA), which is dedicated to creating a trained workforce in the fastener industry. The Alliance is working to advance the training program to the next level by developing curriculum for a Certificate of Completion and an A.S. degree in Aerospace Fastener Manufacturing Technology.

Gonzales says: "The large concentration of businesses around Compton Center and the manufacturers' need for trained employees made the program ideal to bring to the Compton community. It was a perfect match to start at Compton Center, and Dean Rodney Murray made it happen."

"It is my responsibility, says Dean Murray, "to provide leadership in the implementation of vocational technology educational services and programs. The fastener program

meets the distinct needs of students, the job market and our surrounding communities. I am privileged to work with David Gonzales, Stanley Jacobson, and many others who are committed to the successful outcomes of students and to enhancing the District's scope of vocational educational programs.”

Stanley Jacobson, the program’s instructor, says: “The students get so much knowledge and training in a short time that they are well prepared to enter the aerospace fastener industry. There is no job shortage, only a skill shortage.” This intensive program includes 40 hours per week in the classroom and three hours of homework daily. No one can miss even one class—and no one does. Jacobson describes his students as “so skilled and patient, that even without a math background, they can excel in the class.” Jacobson’s program assistants are Dr. Charles Spence, a physicist in nanobiology and Bryce Garner, whose field is manufacturing technology.

The members of the current class have diverse life and work experience—homeless individuals, veterans, recovering substance abusers, the first woman welder in the air force and a mechanical engineer, among others. They all share a dedication to learning as much as they can. Their instructor has high expectations for them and goes by the credo that “practice makes perfect is not good enough; perfect practice makes perfect.”

For information about the program, call Alicia Zambrano at 310-900-1600, ext. 2779.

El Camino College Compton Center is accredited and serving the educational needs of our community. Students are able to earn an associate degree, transfer to a four-year university or receive career training. Fees are only \$20 per unit. The college catalog, class schedule, evenings and weekend college offerings are available in-person or on-line at www.compton.edu. Compton Center is located at 1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, CA; 310-900-1600.

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