



NEWS

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El Camino College Compton Center Students Get Hired into Growing Aerospace Fastener Manufacturing Industry

Jairo Juarez-Lazo spent his summer learning how to make aircraft parts while enrolled in El Camino College Compton Center's eight-week Aerospace Fastener Manufacturing summer program. For Juarez-Lazo, the highlight of the program came when he successfully implemented all of the knowledge he had gained and manufactured an actual part. The summer training program motivated Juarez-Lazo to continue his education in the field and he is now enrolled in the ongoing Machine Tool Technology/Aerospace Fastener program under ECC Compton Center's newly established Career Advancement Academy.

Through its Career Advancement Academy, El Camino College Compton Center is providing students with the programs and training they need for careers in industries that are currently hiring. The academy offers programs in Machine Tool Technology/Aerospace Fasteners and Welding. Enrolling in one of these programs is a proactive first step for students wanting to gain valuable, marketable skills and set themselves up for successful careers.

Juarez-Lazo and his father, Jose Juarez, completed the summer training program in aerospace fastener manufacturing, the mechanical joining of two or more objects, together. After graduating from California State University Dominguez Hills with a degree in graphic design, Juarez-Lazo struggled to find a full-time position in the field and saw the program as an opportunity to start a career in manufacturing. While Jose Juarez, a centerless grinder and veteran in the industry, viewed the program as a way to advance his career. The program has enabled him to strengthen his blueprinting comprehension, which he was confident would lead to a more lucrative position.

He was right. Since completing the summer program, Juarez was hired at ALCOA Fastening Systems, the world's leading producer of aluminum. And, an additional six ECC Compton Center students from the Aerospace Fastener Manufacturing program have been hired in the last year by California Screw Products.

"By completing the program together my dad and I were able to benefit from each other's strengths. My background in graphic design allowed me to help him better understand blueprinting, while his 15 years of experience were a great resource for me in the machinery courses," said Juarez-Lazo. "The instructors were also very helpful in identifying our strengths. When one of them discovered I had a degree in graphic design, he opened my eyes to a career I had never considered—making the actual blueprints for the parts."

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Student Connects with Aerospace Fastener Program 2-2-2-2

The aerospace fastener industry is centered in Southern California. Local aerospace fasteners, manufacturers and distributors currently employ over 10,000 Southern Californians. Many of these veteran workers, however, are due to retire and it is anticipated that numerous local employers will be looking to hire skilled students for entry-level positions over the next five years. The Career Advancement Academy at ECC Compton Center is part of a statewide initiative to cultivate programs that train students for jobs that actually exist in the local community, like aerospace fastener manufacturing.

The future of the Career Advancement Academy is strong with a \$662,700 grant from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and technical assistance from the Careers Ladders Project. This generous support gives enrolled students the opportunity to attend a variety of career skills workshops; build interpersonal skills necessary in the workplace; as well as receive industry specific sustainability and total quality management training. One of the biggest advantages that the programs offer students is a career fair with employers looking specifically to hire Career Advancement Academy graduates.

Preparation for the career fair includes learning how to write a resume, dress for an interview, and skillfully answer potential employers questions during the interview process. "The career fair was the ideal way to end the program," said Juarez-Lazo. "I already had one interview and am preparing for another. My dad had lots of offers and secured a better position in the field." In the meantime, Juarez-Lazo has decided to take the advanced training courses in the Aerospace Fastener Manufacturing program at ECC Compton Center and continue to build his skills.

For more information regarding ECC Compton Center's Career Advancement Academy and its programs, please contact Alicia Zambrano at azambrano@elcamino.edu, or by calling 310-900-1600, Ext. 2779.

About El Camino College Compton Center

El Camino College Compton Center is the community's education solution offering a full complement of transfer and degree courses, as well as career and technical education. Students may earn an associate degree or certificate, transfer to a four-year university or train for a career. El Camino College Compton Center is located at 1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, CA.

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