



First Precision Fabrication Technology Associate's Degree Class Graduated in December 2007

Second Class to Graduate in May of 2008

Eight students made history on December 14, 2007 completing the "4th Semester" at MAGLEV, Inc.'s McKeesport "teaching factory". This was the first class to successfully complete the newly established 2-year Associates Degree Program in Precision Fabrication Technology initiated by MAGLEV, Inc. and originally funded with assistance from U.S. Senator Arlen Specter. This program is conducted in conjunction with Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) and Penn State - Greater Allegheny (PSU). It is a four-semester program with the students required to take three semesters of education at CCAC fulfilling requirements that serve as prerequisites. The prerequisites are heavily centered on math, science and chemistry.

The "4th Semester" is taught at the MAGLEV, Inc. 1905 R&D Technology Center "teaching factory". The 4th semester consists of 18 credits of advanced manufacturing, automation and robotics taught in MAGLEV, Inc.'s classrooms and hands-on in the R&D facility. The courses are accredited by PSU and are taught by MAGLEV, Inc. engineers serving as adjunct PSU Professors. The semester is broken down into three 5-week segments, with two courses taught during each 5-week segment. The courses consist of Basic Engineering Design, 3D Computer Aided Design, Computer Aided Manufacturing and Software Integration, Metrology and Basic and Robotic Welding.

December '07 saw the culmination of the final 5-week segment of the fall semester. In December, eight students graduated and all successfully achieved their objectives. Of the eight, two went on to higher education and one must complete additional classes. The other five have all had job offers in the \$20 - \$25 per hour starting salary range. MAGLEV is preparing for another eight students to graduate in May of this year.

Statewide Expansion of the Program Pursued

Discussions were held in 2007 with the Administration of Delaware County Community College (DCCC) in eastern Pennsylvania concerning integrating their Advanced Manufacturing Associate Degree Program into our Precision Fabrication Technology Program. The result was a Memorandum of Understanding outlining just such an assimilation agreement. DCCC is planning to introduce the program in the Fall of 2008. Prerequisites within their current catalogue will be selected to provide the first three semesters of education at their Delaware County Campuses and the "4th Semester" students will attend instruction and hands-on training at MAGLEV, Inc.'s McKeesport facility. Upon completion, DCCC will award the student an Associate's Degree in Advanced Manufacturing

Incumbent Workers

Efforts are underway to create an incumbent training program suitable for advanced manufacturing training for interested companies. Modified and condensed "4th Semester" courses provide the baseline for stand-alone training modules for companies that require specific training for their employees in any of the advanced disciplines. Two roundtable discussions with regional industry were held in order to survey the needs of the regional companies and additional efforts are underway to market the program.