



high tech

**Ronald R.
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2-year schools are geared up for high-tech

A study conducted in November 1982 indicated 24 high-tech employers in southeast Michigan will need 88 computer-aided design technicians over the next five years.

The same survey found 26 employers will need 472 photobits technicians over the same five-year period. During the last two years, several high-technology conferences were held around the country for the benefit of community college personnel. The message at all the conferences was the same — business and industry will need highly trained technicians, and the community colleges across the nation are the ones to provide this training.

The challenge to prepare "super technicians" is quite revolutionary, compared to those of even 10 years ago. In the early 1970s there was a great rush to develop educational programs and train computer data processing professionals at the technician level. Community colleges met the challenge, and today just about every community college in the country has a CDP program.

SOME OBSERVERS fear a glut of associate degree and certificate holding graduates already exists in some sections of the country. However, more are enrolling and graduating at a feverish pace.

Today and for the future, the greatest need in industry is for the technician who can help "design, produce, install, program and maintain modern robots or other computer-controlled automated operations," according to Walter S. Brooking, education program specialist. In addition, Brooking declared that the super technician "evidently needs to be prepared with a combination of elements from electronic, mechanical and computer programming technician curriculums."

Community colleges are best suited to provide training programs for high-technology industries. Community colleges have an "open admissions" policy, which means any adult, regardless of previous educational achievement, is admitted to the institution. There are no entrance exams, and ACT and SAT scores are not necessary.

Furthermore, community colleges as "community-based," so classes are usually offered on a campus close to your home. In addition, support-services for adult students are readily available, including child care, evening and weekend classes, and low tuition rates.

SEVERAL COMMUNITY colleges in Southeast Michigan have responded to these new and emerging industry needs, specifically Wayne County Community College, Schoolcraft College and Oakland Community College all have highly regarded computer data processing programs.

Numerous graduates of these programs are employed in the Detroit metropolitan area as programmers, computer operators, analysts and software/hardware specialists. All three Wayne, Schoolcraft and Oakland have robotics technician programs, and Wayne and Oakland have programs in computer-aided design as well.

In addition, several other community colleges in the state recently have developed new programs in both areas. Some observers are concerned that we may be training more technicians than are necessary.

Electronics technician programs are offered at all three community colleges. Technicians are trained in all areas of electronics including electro-mechanics, micro-processors, and heavy electrical power transmission.

Schoolcraft and Wayne offer metallurgical technology, including the study of metallography, testing and inspection of materials, and thermal treatments. Wayne also offers computer numerical control. This program trains students in programming numerically controlled machines such as lathes and milling machines for the metal working industries.

SEVERAL non-manufacturing high-tech programs also exist at these community colleges.

Schoolcraft offers a program in biomedical engineering technology. Oakland has programs in fluid power technology, nuclear medicine, alternate energies technology, and telecommunications. Wayne has programs in coastal environmental studies, telecommunications, video technology, and aviation mechanics.

A number of high-technology training fields are ignored by area community colleges. For example, there are no technician programs for genetic engineering, artificial intelligence, fiber optics, or holography.

For those interested in community college technician training programs, registration is going on for the winter 1984 semester. For information call: Wayne County Community College, 496-2521; Schoolcraft College, 591-6400; and Oakland Community College, 540-1500.

A Troy resident, Dr. Watcke is dean of liberal arts at Wayne County Community College.

Congress boosts nursing profession

Nursing got official recognition as a healing profession with an amendment to the Health Research Extension Act in Congress.

A National Institute of Nursing would be added to the National Institutes of Health if the bill, which passed the House of Representatives, also is approved in the Senate.

Co-sponsor Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, who has devoted much time to preserving federal funding for nursing programs, said:

"The governing mandate of the National Institutes for Health is to improve the health of the American people. Nursing is the backbone of health care, and nursing research is an increasingly important field of health care."

"A National Institute of Nursing would recognize the critical role nurses play in medical care. The institute could generate greater support for basic clinical nursing research and training related to prevention of disease, health promotion and care of chronically ill individuals and their families."

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