

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY
Machines make the world go round



ANTHONY JONES, 24, OF NEWPORT DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HE WANTED TO DO OR IF HE WOULD MAKE A GOOD COLLEGE STUDENT WHEN HE GRADUATED FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL. SO, HE TOOK A CHANCE BY REGISTERING AT HACC WHERE HE WENT "STRAIGHT THROUGH" TO EARN AN ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DEGREE IN 2004.

"HACC gave me a good foundation and a clear path to transfer to Penn State-Harrisburg" where Jones says he earned a bachelor's degree in 2006. Today, he is a Field Engineer for Halliburton Cementing Services in Grand Junction, Colo.

Like Jones, Ben Murphy, 25, of Enola decided to sign on for HACC's Mechanical Engineering Technology program after graduating from Cumberland Valley High School

"It was close to home and a good deal money-wise. Besides I wasn't 100 percent sure what I wanted to do." He adds, "I got the feel of college classes and how to deal with the responsibility attached to studying and getting the work done."

Murphy earned an associate in science degree at HACC in 2004 and went on to earn a bachelor's degree at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Today, he has an exciting job making rapid prototype parts from resin and powder for race cars as a Design Engineer for Penske Racing in Mooresville, N.C.

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HACC students receive more than \$65 million in financial aid annually. To fill out a free application for Federal Student Aid go to: www.fafsa.ed.gov. For more financial information, call HACC Financial Aid Services at (717) 780-2330.

To find out more about HACC's Mechanical Engineering Technology program, call Kim Ketelsleger, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering, at (717) 221-1300, ext. 1424 or via e-mail kaketels@hacc.edu.



HACC does not discriminate in employment, student admissions, and student services on the basis of race, color, religion, age, political affiliation or belief, sex, national origin, ancestry, disability, place of birth, General Education Development Certification (GED), marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran status, or any other legally protected classification.

Denita McFarland, 36, of Harrisburg graduated from HACC's Mechanical Engineering Technology program with an associate degree in 2007. A wife and mother of three, she was a customer service representative who cut back part-time to go to HACC. As a family, "we took a few steps back financially to go forward," McFarland says.

Today, she is a Plant Equipment Operator at PPL at Brunner Island power plant in York Haven.

"HACC was a great experience," she says. "The professors always were willing to help. They had an open door policy and understood this was essential to their students' final success. Their attitudes were the main reason I was so successful."

MANY CAREER PATHS AVAILABLE

"Many opportunities are available to mechanical engineering technology graduates with either a two-year associate's or four-year bachelor's degree," says HACC Mechanical Engineering Associate Professor Kim Ketelsleger.

"They are involved in the design and manufacture of everything from dishwashers and hiking boots to combustion engines and robots. They are employed in the automotive industry, healthcare, chemical, glass and other industries," Ketelsleger says, adding that the possibilities are endless, and HACC offers internships that can turn into jobs upon the completion of the program.

KEYS TO BECOMING A MECHANICAL ENGINEER

HACC requires 63 credits for a two-year degree, including:

- 19 credits of English composition, reporting, technical writing, speaking and interpersonal communication;
- 38 - 39 credits of the technology major, focusing on computer-aided drafting (CAD) and design, strength of materials, quality control, dynamics, machine shop theory and troubleshooting; and
- 6 credits of college algebra and trigonometry.

All credits are transferable to pursue a bachelor's degree.

Mechanical engineers with an associate's degree earn a median pay of \$45,850 a year, according to the U.S. Occupational Outlook Handbook. Those who go on to earn a bachelor's degree can expect a starting range of \$48,000 to \$57,000 a year.

In addition, HACC offers a certificate program that requires 31 credits for students to study Computer Aided Design (CAD) software. This program prepares students as entry level drafters, aides to engineers and scientists, and apprentice machinists.

GETTING STARTED

HACC offers students:

- flexibility to study part- or full-time while meeting obligations in the workplace; individual attention and remedial work to meet admission requirements, and
- the ability to transfer for a bachelor degree program.

HACC provides high-quality education at the lowest cost in the area. Find admissions information, tuition and fees and a list of the 22 south-central Pennsylvania school sponsoring districts that pick up part of the tuition cost for residents at www.hacc.edu.