

MAKING THE Connection TO Career Technical Education

Thursday, Nov. 30, 2017

ENGINEERING

Meet the new faces of automotive technology

Samantha Leonardi and Alix Rivard are in two different programs at Macomb but they have simultaneously been breaking down engines and stereotypes as they proceed toward careers as an automotive service technician and performance engine builder.

"No desk job for me," says Rivard, who is also earning a welding certificate at Macomb. "I like breaking down engines and rebuilding them."

As an aspiring photographer in high school, Rivard found that her favorite subjects tended to have four tires and a hood, preferably with a custom engine under it. That was when the Macomb automotive service technology student had a glimpse of where her future might lead.

"I didn't know much about cars when I started the program," offers Rivard, 24. "Now, at work (Alta Equipment Company), they come to me with questions about engines. I've grown so much as a technician."

After reading her application essay, the North American Council of Automotive Teachers (NACAT) Foundation agreed, awarding Rivard a \$1,000 scholarship at its national convention held at Macomb in July.

"I fell in love with engines at Macomb," says Rivard, "and now my dream is to become a performance engine builder for Team Penske."



Alix Rivard received a \$1,000 scholarship from NACAT to continue her automotive technology studies at Macomb.

Leonardi, who counts Automatic Transmissions as one of her favorite classes, looked under her first hood in the company of her father. After taking every auto tech class Lakeview High School offered, one of her teachers recommended her for Macomb's General Motors Automotive Service Education Program (GM ASEP).

"The experience has been awesome. I have been with these same guys for two years and some of them will probably be lifelong friends," says Leonardi, currently the only woman in the GM-sponsored training program. "The (internship) experience at the (Merollis Chevrolet) dealership has been great as well. I have learned a lot and made a lot of friends there, too."

This year, Leonardi received a \$2,000 scholarship from Grainger Tools and a Breaking Traditions Merit Award from the Michigan Department of Education

this year. "One of my personal objectives is to break down stereotypes in this field," says Leonardi, who intends to pursue a bachelor's degree in automotive management at Ferris State University. "Luckily in my school and work, it's not an issue, but I was tired of people looking at me odd when I went into auto parts stores. I want to show them that a woman can do just as well as a man, maybe better."

And one of her professors has no doubt she will.

"Samantha is a hard worker," says Dan Claus, automotive technology faculty. "She never lets anything stand in her way, least of all her gender. She goes above and beyond and has impressed everyone in the program."

For more information about Macomb's Automotive Technology program, contact Claus at 586.445.7010.

LEARNING

Field trips offer students real view of the workplace

In a textbook example of "show, don't tell," Macomb's Career Services have been taking students on First Friday Field Trips for the past year to help them connect the real world of work to what they have been learning in the classroom.

On the first Friday of just about every month during the school year, a bus is chartered and enough students to fill it are recruited based on majors and interests. The destination may be a hospital or design firm, sports venue or manufacturing facility, or any type of business where students see themselves working one day. Everything is free and that includes lunch.

Already this semester, students have visited the DTE Warren Service Center and the Macomb County Communications and Technology Center.

A tour of these facilities was complemented by discussion with employees who have the jobs the students are preparing for.

At DTE, they explored careers in business and technical areas. At the Macomb County facility, students had the opportunity to get a practical look at careers in information technology and public service.

"It was interesting, I enjoyed everything," says Marjana Diekovic, Macomb business student, who attended the DTE field trip. "Most enjoyable was Steve, a DTE

manager, explaining all of the opportunities and the process of what they do."

Three trips are planned for the winter semester. Students will visit an Ascension Health care facility in February, a Cintas (global supplier of uniforms and more) distribution center in March and Fori Automation in April.

"These events allow Macomb students to explore opportunities and network with area employers," says Mark Jewett, Career Services coordinator.

"Consistently among our best-attended events, we consider the First Friday Field Trips a great success and look forward to continuing to bring Macomb students and area employers together."

SCIENCE

Lab assistant is first step on her career path

Eva Cobau is taking a well-deserved semester off from her studies at Macomb after completing the College's Laboratory Assistant program and landing a full-time job at St. John Hospital in Detroit as a phlebotomist.

"I like it a lot," says Cobau, who performs blood draws on the midnight shift. "I like that I am actually working with patients."

After graduating high school, Cobau's path didn't take her anywhere near a hospital.

She enrolled in cosmetology school and held a series of restaurant jobs, which she termed "awful." A year of that convinced her to reconsider a former notion.

"It's been my lifelong dream to be a mortician and own my own fu-

neral home," offers Cobau. "But in high school, I had this notion I wasn't fit for college. Then I realized, I was not enjoying my time, I wasn't learning anything new and I wasn't bettering myself."

Placement tests at Macomb confirmed Cobau's aptitude and interest in anatomy and biology. She began taking the classes she will need to enter Wayne State University's Mortuary Science program, but didn't want to continue working in restaurants to help pay for them.

"I wanted a job that would get me through college," says Cobau, 20, "and I had all this knowledge from my biology classes that I wanted to put to use."

She spoke with her Macomb counselor about

what options there were for working in a field more closely aligned to her career interests and college studies.

He suggested the Laboratory Assistant program offered by the College's Workforce and Continuing Education Department. Cobau completed the program in six months and was hired by St. John during her internship there.

"I now appreciate why my instructor kept going over precision and patient identification," says Cobau, "because when you are in the field that is everything."

For more information about Macomb's Laboratory Assistant program, contact the Center for Health Careers at 586.226.4807 or healthcareers@macomb.edu.

EDUCATION

Students learn what puts the STEAM in manufacturing

Macomb's Auto STEAM Days in December offers students in grades 6-12 an opportunity to explore careers in automotive design, robotics and manufacturing, and an evening event can bring their parents up to speed as well.

STEAM encompasses automotive, science, technology, engineering, art and math.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 5 and 6, students will be brought to Macomb's Sports & Expo Center by their middle, junior and senior high schools to learn how all these areas interact in today's manufacturing sec-

tor.

Through hands-on and virtual activities, students will experience digital sketching and automotive clay modeling, welding and other skilled trades. They will learn about automated vehicles, coding and traffic light programming, augmented reality, crash detection, drivelines and surface traction. They will have the opportunity to talk with experts in the fields of engineering and robotics and check out the latest trends in automotive design and technology.

On Wednesday, Dec. 6, they are invited to bring

their parents back to the Sports & Expo Center to Explore Careers in Manufacturing and Technology from 5:30 to 8 p.m. A panel of recent grads, local employers and Macomb educators will discuss the job skills that are in high demand, who employers are hiring, career pathways in manufacturing and technology, and internship and apprenticeship opportunities, including the Michigan Apprenticeship Program Plus (MAP+).

To register for Explore Careers in Manufacturing & Technology, go to macomb.edu/MFGevening.

Explore Careers in Manufacturing & Technology

In affiliation with AUTO STEAM DAYS Dec. 5-6

Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2017 • 5:30-8pm

Macomb Community College • Sports & Expo Center
South Campus

- Enjoy hands-on exhibits and activities, including concept cars
- Learn about job skills that are in high demand
- Hear from recent graduates who found good-paying career employment
- Meet local businesses and learn about the careers that are available to you
- Discover the career pathway that's right for you
- Meet local businesses and learn who employers are hiring

FREE concessions while supplies last

Enter for a chance to win a Drone

Register to attend this FREE event!

www.macomb.edu/MFGevening

Presented by Macomb Community College, in collaboration with Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Manufacturing and Mathematics (STEAM) partners.

Anchor Bay Schools
Armada Area Schools
Center Line Public Schools
Chippewa Valley Schools
Clintondale Community Schools
Eastpointe Community Schools
Fitzgerald Public Schools
Fraser Public Schools
Lake Shore Public Schools
Lakeview Public Schools
L'Anse Creuse Public Schools
Mount Clemens Community Schools
New Haven Community Schools

For more information about CTE, contact Shannon Williams at 586.228.3488 or swilliams@misd.net

Macomb Intermediate School District
44001 Garfield Road
Clinton Township, MI 48038
586.228.3300

For more information about the MISD and the 21 school districts, go to www.misd.net

Richmond Community Schools
Romeo Community Schools
Roseville Community Schools
South Lake Schools
Utica Community Schools
Van Dyke Public Schools
Warren Consolidated Schools
Warren Woods Public Schools

It is the policy of the MISD that no person on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, marital status, or disability shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity for which the MISD is responsible.