

2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Creating New Pathways to a Skilled Workforce



RANKEN

TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Our Mission

Ranken Technical College is a private, nonprofit, degree-granting institution of higher learning whose primary mission is to provide the comprehensive education and training necessary to prepare students for employment and advancement in a variety of technical fields.



National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) Board Chairman and Emerson Chairman and CEO David Farr participates in a panel discussion about the need for skilled workers during the final stop on NAM's 2018 "State of Manufacturing Tour" held at Ranken Technical College in February.

CREATING **NEW PATHWAYS...**

To Educate and Train the **Technicians of Tomorrow**

At Ranken Technical College, our mission and focus has always been to create new and innovative pathways to help build a skilled workforce. By listening – and responding – to business and industry needs, we consistently are at the forefront of educating and training the technicians of tomorrow. The result is that nearly all of our graduates receive multiple job offers just after, and often prior to, graduation.

At Ranken, we are continuously seeking new pathways and new partnerships that truly integrate education and workforce, providing a basis for today and tomorrow's innovation and economic growth!

For several years running we have seen a record for the number of companies participating in our biannual job fairs. The 2018 Spring Job Fair was our largest and it brought 500+ companies to our campus! Why the booming turnout? Companies searching for skilled workers are becoming more

familiar with Ranken thanks in part to a successful apprenticeship model that has garnered local, regional, and national awards and recognition. Ranken's proven educational formula – led by our experienced instructors – combines hands-on training, state-of-the-art equipment, and an emphasis on work ethic to thoroughly prep students for real-world jobs.



As further evidence of Ranken's innovative pathways to training tomorrow's technicians, this past year we were honored to receive two awards from the Missouri Association of Manufacturers:

- The first, the **Apprenticeship Program Excellence Award**, recognized Ranken's commitment to skills development through our paid manufacturing apprenticeships.
- The second, the **SKILLSOURCE Initiative Award**, honors Ranken's Manufacturing, Inc. which is a coalition of companies who are taking

the initiative to address the manufacturing skills gap and workforce shortage. These companies united together to create a unique partnership to foster new growth, provide support to microenterprise training programs, workforce and economic development for long-term initiatives.

On a national level, Ranken was proud to host the final stop of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) fourth annual **State of Manufacturing Tour**. During a panel discussion, NAM President and CEO Jay Timmons highlighted the urgent need to build a modern manufacturing workforce and noted that institutions like Ranken are "leading the charge – and leading by example – to ensure our future workforce is ready."

This year's Annual Report highlights these and other efforts to create new pathways on behalf of our students and stakeholders.

As we go to press, we are especially honored to receive a significant naming gift from the **Robert W. Plaster Foundation** to help fund construction of our new 26,000 square-foot manufacturing facility, scheduled to open in 2019. This gift, which will help us train and educate the skilled workforce of tomorrow, truly creates enhanced opportunities for students and businesses, whether in terms of skills development or free enterprise and business creation. **R**

To Meet **Employer Demands**

The Robert W. Plaster Free Enterprise Center

Thanks to a significant naming gift from the Robert W. Plaster Foundation (based in Lebanon, Mo.), Ranken Technical College is moving rapidly to complete construction and open a new facility to serve as the permanent home for our growing manufacturing microenterprise program.

The \$5 million facility will cover two repurposed properties adjacent to Ranken's main St. Louis campus and be equipped with specially designed manufacturing hubs so that businesses can set up live fabrication and assembly lines. Students enrolled in the microenterprise program will be paid while learning skills on actual industry equipment; they also will have the chance to develop leadership attributes by participating in team supervision, logistics, and quality control.

"This generous gift from the Robert W. Plaster Foundation enables us to take our model of apprenticeship programs to a higher level and involve more industry partners," says Ranken President Stan Shoun. "The Foundation focuses on empowering students and promoting free enterprise, which is directly in line with our approach to finding and creating new pathways that help train students for the skilled jobs needed."

The facility will have space to establish an Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Center and a Youth Entrepreneurship Incubator to further guide and empower students to become business entrepreneurs. Also included in the curriculum will be a new Common Sense Economics class so that students better understand the economic and fiscal issues related to business and industry.

"Ranken is educating at the pace of industry. It shows in their students and their partner companies,"

says Dr. Dolly Plaster Clement, Executive Director of the Robert W. Plaster Foundation. "Ranken students learn advanced manufacturing skills and about the American free enterprise system. This allows students to get great jobs early and provides a good foundation for those who may aspire to start their own businesses. We are honored to be part of that mission. My father would be excited to see what Ranken students accomplish."

The Foundation's donation adds to growing private and public investment in Ranken's new facility. Last year, Ranken received more than \$2.5 million in grants from the U.S. Department of Commerce and the St. Louis Development Corporation. **R**

New and Expanding Microenterprises

The following companies are investing more than \$2 million in combined start-up costs to set up manufacturing lines:

- Emerson
- GWR Safety Systems
- Kemco Aerospace
- Nidec Corporation
- The Grun Company
- Watlow Electric

Microenterprises have been established at Ranken since 2010. Currently there are eight microenterprises on campus, together generating in excess of \$2.5 million in products and services.



Ranken By the Numbers

25%

Students pursuing manufacturing-related degrees

50%

Students interested in starting their own businesses

2,600

Number of secondary students anticipated to visit Free Enterprise Center for tours, tech demonstrations, special events

Robert W. Plaster

Born in southwestern Missouri in 1930 during the Great Depression, Robert W. Plaster was instilled with a strong work ethic at a very young age. His father, a carpenter, died early in his life and Plaster began working at age 10 to help support the family.

After graduating from high school and enrolling in Joplin Junior College to pursue an accounting degree, Plaster was unable to afford ongoing tuition. He left college and went to work full-time. Among his many jobs, he worked for the U.S. Treasury Department and for a propane gas company before becoming an entrepreneur and forming his own business, Empire Gas Corporation. He grew the company to become one of the largest propane gas distributors in the United States.

Plaster later sold his company and founded Evergreen Investments, LLC, dedicated to investing in various enterprises. With a firm belief that hard work is the key to success and that hard work is "multiplied by having a good education," he co-founded Enactus (formerly Students in Free Enterprise), which has now become an international organization dedicated to teaching entrepreneurship, work ethics, financial literacy, and community involvement to help students better understand a market economy and succeed in business.

Wanting to give back, he established the Robert W. Plaster Foundation in 1983 to promote free enterprise and support educational opportunities for students so that they are empowered for success.

Robert Plaster died in 2008, but through the many significant capital donations to universities and colleges made on his behalf through his Foundation, his passion for creating educational facilities and new pathways to business success lives on. **R**



To Meet **Employer Demands**

Microenterprise Spotlight: Emerson

Emerson, a true leader in global technology and engineering, has long been an outstanding industry partner with Ranken Technical College. The Fortune 500 company has generously contributed millions of dollars to Ranken over the years through philanthropic gifts, in-kind equipment donations, scholarships and manufacturing education materials.

In 2013, Emerson established its first microenterprise at Ranken, creating a heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) testing facility for its Emerson Climate Technologies' White Rodgers Division. Students - working under the guidance of Ranken faculty and Emerson mentors - test refrigeration and air conditioning systems as well as water-cooled units, cooling towers, timers and heaters. The partnership also established Ambient Rooms, allowing students to test Emerson components in highly variable environmental conditions (from -40°F to 185°F).

In 2017, another division, Emerson Automation Solutions, created a second microenterprise at Ranken for the assembly of advanced electrical panels. The partnership allows Emerson to continue to bring expertise, technologies and services to clients while helping to prepare the next workforce of industrial automation professionals. The students are gaining invaluable experience through this real world work experience. **R**



For six years, Emerson has had a heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) testing facility on Ranken's campus as a microenterprise venture.



Control Systems Technology is the newest program to be offered at Ranken-Wentzville.



Our [apprenticeship and jobs initiative] program will be geared toward all industries and all jobs. The point here is to foster public-private partnerships between industry and educational institutions ... so that when [students graduate] they have the skills necessary to enter the workforce."

U.S. Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta, 2017

U.S. Department of Labor Certifies Registered Apprenticeships at Ranken

The U.S. Department of Labor has certified two of Ranken's programs as Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs). The Industrial Engineering Technology program in Perryville and the Automotive Collision Repair program in St. Louis both earned RAP status, with labor officials visiting Ranken-Perryville last year to announce the designations.

RAP certification recognizes high-quality programs that combine on-the-job training with hands-on

instruction. Ranken students who complete the programs now will receive a National Occupational Credential in addition to earning a Ranken degree or certificate.

Over the past year, Ranken has been honored three times by the U.S. Department of Labor, the National Association of Manufacturers, and the Missouri Association of Manufacturers for being at the forefront of meeting the demand for a skilled workforce. **R**



Stan Shoun (left), Ranken President, is pictured with Todd Huber, President of TG Missouri, and Wade Johnson, U.S. Department of Labor/Office of Apprenticeship, at the apprenticeship signing event held at Ranken-Perryville, for the Industrial Engineering Technology program.

To High Quality Education and Training

Our Mission: Ranken Technical College is a private, non-profit, degree-granting institution of higher learning whose primary mission is to provide the comprehensive education and training necessary to prepare students for employment and advancement in a variety of technical fields.

Throughout 2017-2018, Ranken Technical College has been busy enhancing and expanding its programs to meet the growing demands for skilled workers. At the St. Louis campus and in our satellite locations in Perryville and Wentzville, we are receiving more interest and requests by regional businesses to set up new integrated work-based learning partnerships while building upon existing partnerships.

Ranken-Perryville

Since opening in January 2017, Ranken-Perryville has seen tremendous demand in southeast Missouri for its training programs that integrate onsite job internships with hands-on classroom training. Last year, Ranken had three industry partners – TG Missouri, Robinson Construction and Gilster-Mary Lee.

This year, Ranken-Perryville added seven new industry partners:

- Atlas Roofing
- Custom Cut Fabrication
- Emerson Automation Solutions
- Good Earth Tools
- Hubbell Wiegmann
- Roeslein & Associates
- Rubbermaid

In Spring 2018, a new fabrication and welding program was added and an onsite diesel repair facility was set-up at Gilster Mary-Lee to support the growing diesel technology program. In the near future, Ranken will add a machining section to the Industrial Engineering Technology Program.

"We have targeted our training programs to fill the workforce needs of industry throughout the southeast region of Missouri," says Dan Kania, Ranken's Dean of Academic Affairs. "In addition to a Ranken degree and onsite internships, our students earn national certifications, all of which make them workforce-ready. That's how we are meeting employer demands here, and it's working."



In a new integrated work-based partnership with Robinson Construction, Ranken began offering a fabrication and welding program in Perryville earlier this year.

Ranken-St. Louis

In the Automotive Division, Ranken was honored by Ford with its 2017 Performance Award for the quality of faculty and hands-on training provided in Ranken's Ford Automotive Student Service Education Training (ASSET) program. With the honor comes a \$10,000 gift, half of which will fund scholarships; the remainder will enable Ranken to purchase tools and equipment to enhance training and skills development. The Ford ASSET program is one of several Certified Dealership Technician tracks offered on campus where students receive hands-on training at Ranken and then rotate through paid dealership internships. In the last two years, Ranken has added partnerships with Subaru, Audi, and Nissan to a roster that also includes General Motors, Honda/Acura and Toyota/Lexus. More partnerships with other automotive manufacturers are anticipated in the future.



Ford Motor Company awarded a 2017 Performance Award to Ranken, recognizing the high quality of the school's Ford automotive technician training program.

Ranken-Wentzville

Industry leaders in the Wentzville region continue to ask for new programs and innovative partnerships. The satellite location now offers eight programs, including a new Control Systems Technology program that began in mid-2018. Because the Electrical Automation Technology Program was filled to capacity this year, plans are in the works to expand that program to meet industry and student demand.

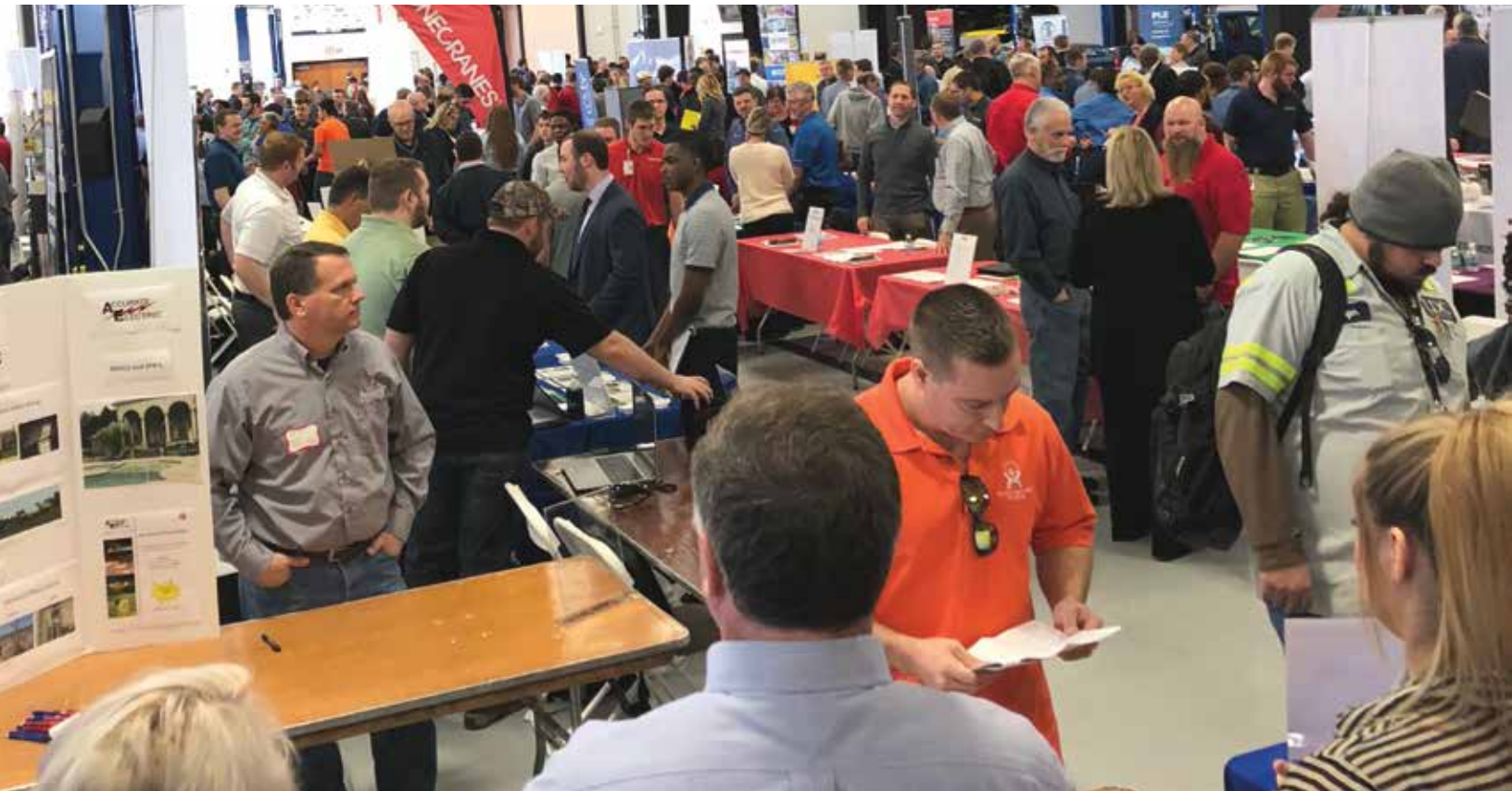
In an innovative semester-long partnership with the St. Charles Economic Development Center, IT students in Wentzville had the opportunity to enhance programming and database skills with the organization as they worked to help build a dynamic web presence.

Among the most successful programs in Wentzville is the strong partnership Ranken has with Mid-America Peterbilt in O'Fallon, Mo., which sends Ranken used diesel trucks so that students have opportunities for hands-on training in preventive maintenance and minor repairs as part of the diesel technology program. **R**



Ranken-Wentzville is building a strong partnership with Mid-America Peterbilt in diesel repair technology.

to Skilled Jobs and Careers



At the largest job fair in the history of Ranken Technical College, industry demand for skilled graduates exceeded the number of students seeking jobs.

Job Fair Attracts 500+ Companies Looking for Skilled Workers

Ranken broke another record at the Spring Job Fair. More than 500 companies signed up to share information and recruit students for good-paying jobs. Participating companies represented a wide spectrum of career pathways ranging from information technology (IT) and control systems technology to automotive, manufacturing and precision machining, construction, and heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR).

"We come to Ranken because the students here have the skills needed and are job ready when they graduate," says Blair Turley, a recruiter for Concero Technology Group, one of the largest IT recruiting firms in Missouri. "There is a huge shortage of IT workers in the region and we're actively recruiting for many client companies. Demand is incredibly high and we want to represent Ranken graduates."

Hands-on job training coupled with work ethic requirements in

all of Ranken's programs are what entice employers to the College's job fairs, which are held twice annually in St. Louis and Wentzville. In recent years, the size of the job fairs has risen dramatically because companies have to compete aggressively to find skilled workers.

"It's tough to find the workers we need," says Greg Jones, a recruiter for Hussmann Corporation. "We're trying to get ahead of graduation by talking to students early and letting them know what we have to offer."

"Thanks to a booming economy, there has never been a clearer (and faster) pathway to well-paying jobs and careers than a two-year technical degree from Ranken Technical College. As a result, the value, including the long-term earning potential, of a technical degree has never been higher!"

Stan Shoun
President, Ranken Technical College

Roeslein & Associates, a manufacturer of modular processing and assembly equipment based in Red Bud, Ill., has been a regular participant in the job fairs for several years. "As a growing company, we focus on continuous recruitment for our skilled craft positions," says Angi Herman, Roeslein's human resources manager. "The students that we recruit from Ranken bring a high level of skill to the workplace. We aim to pair the value

they bring to us with the value we can provide them as an employee-owned company."

Large and small companies attend Ranken's job fairs and recruit students. Among the competitive industries is HVACR. Mark Menos, a 1976 graduate of Ranken, owns Kirkwood Heating and Air Conditioning. Almost all of his employees are Ranken graduates, including his son, Tyler Menos, who completed the HVACR program in 2009 and is now a second-generation co-owner of the company. "We personally know the quality of the education that Ranken offers," says Tyler. "Work ethic is key and it's huge when we look at future employees for our company."

He adds, "The reality is that if students complete Ranken's program, they can probably get a skilled job and rewarding career anywhere. Our industry is facing a critical shortage and Ranken students simply stand out for skills and work ethic." **R**

Tyler Menos, 2009 Ranken graduate and co-owner of Kirkwood Heating and Cooling talks with Ranken student Timothy Ward.



Tooling Operations Manager Denny Bouse talks to a Ranken student about the job opportunities available at US Tool Group.

Strong Demand for Skilled Workers

For the first time, employers have more job openings than unemployed Americans to fill them. The discrepancy is critical in the Midwest.

Jobs Exceed Job Seekers by:

7%

Nationwide

20%

Across the Midwest

Sources: Department of Labor;
State of the St. Louis Workforce
2018 Report

The STEM Pipeline

At Ranken, we believe it is never too soon to encourage students to design, create, think, and work together on project-based activities that inspire them to pursue an exciting STEM-focused career.

For eight years, Ranken has been priming the “STEM pipeline” by engaging students in middle school and high school in fun activities that promote science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Since 2010, we have offered a wide variety of hands-on summer camps, internships, and dual enrollment opportunities to encourage students to consider and pursue STEM pathways that will ultimately lead to a technical career.

STEM Program Highlights

13th Annual Missouri SuperMileage Challenge

For the second year in a row, a high school team sponsored and mentored by Ranken has placed in the Top two in Missouri for the design, fabrication, and performance of a fuel-efficient vehicle. In 2018, the team took Second Place for Overall Performance with an average of 202 mpg in fuel efficiency. They also won Best in Show for their innovative vehicle design. The 13-member team met twice a month for nine months and included students from Desmet Jesuit, Gilroy, Hazelwood Central, St. Louis University, and Whitfield high schools. Team mentors included four faculty and staff from Ranken’s High Performance Racing Program and the Education and Manufacturing Cooperative Department. Last year, Ranken’s team took First Place in the statewide competition with an average of 220 mpg and a top performance of over 234 mpg.



Above: Ranken’s team won Second Place Overall in the 2018 Missouri SuperMileage Challenge for achieving an average 202 mpg in fuel efficiency.



Left: “Best in Show” for Innovative Vehicle Design.

FIRST Robotics

Ranken Technical College annually sponsors several robotics teams as they make their way through regional, state, national, and international competitions.

Two Ranken-sponsored high school teams – the UCity Robolions from University City, Mo., and the Racht Rockers from Wentzville, Mo. – made it all the way to international competitions at the *FIRST* Robotics World Festival in Houston. Another sponsored team, the St. Louis University High School RoboBills, advanced to the national competition held in Miami. Ranken donated \$5,000 to each team to cover registration fees.

In the 2017-2018 season, Ranken sponsored:

15

FIRST LEGO League teams (Grades 4-8)

7

FIRST Tech Challenge robotics teams (Grades 7-12)

3

FIRST Robotics Competition teams (Grades 9-12)

SkillsUSA

Once again, Ranken was proud to host the East District Championships for SkillsUSA. Several regional technical schools participated this year, including Four Rivers Career Center, Hancock High School, Lewis & Clark Career Center, North Technical High School, South Technical High School, and two regional community colleges. More than 150 young men and women participated in the competition, with Ranken awarding \$49,300 in total scholarships to potential Ranken students.

In the post-secondary categories, Ranken excelled at the district level, with our students winning 14 Gold, 10 Silver, and 5 Bronze medals.

Thirty-three students competed at the state level, with eight moving on to the national competition, where Richard Hochecker earned a Silver Medal in CNC Turning and Scott Miller earned a Bronze Medal in the CNC Technician category.



Ranken sponsored 25 regional robotics teams in 2017-18.



SkillsUSA supports the development of skilled workers through regional, state and national competitions.



More than 150 students participated in the 2018 SkillsUSA East District Championship.

The STEM Pipeline (continued)


Summer Adventure Academies (6th - 12th Grade)

We have continued our efforts to broaden the content and reach of our Summer Adventure Academies. In 2018, we offered 27 programs at Ranken's three locations in St. Louis, Perryville and Wentzville.

Middle school programs at Ranken-St. Louis were in high demand, selling out in less than an hour after we opened registration! We offered a two-week course to give area high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to learn Essential Information Technology Skills. With a growing demand for IT workers, the course provided students with a specific pathway that included immersion into challenging and well-paid IT careers. Also in St. Louis, for the second year in a row, we offered

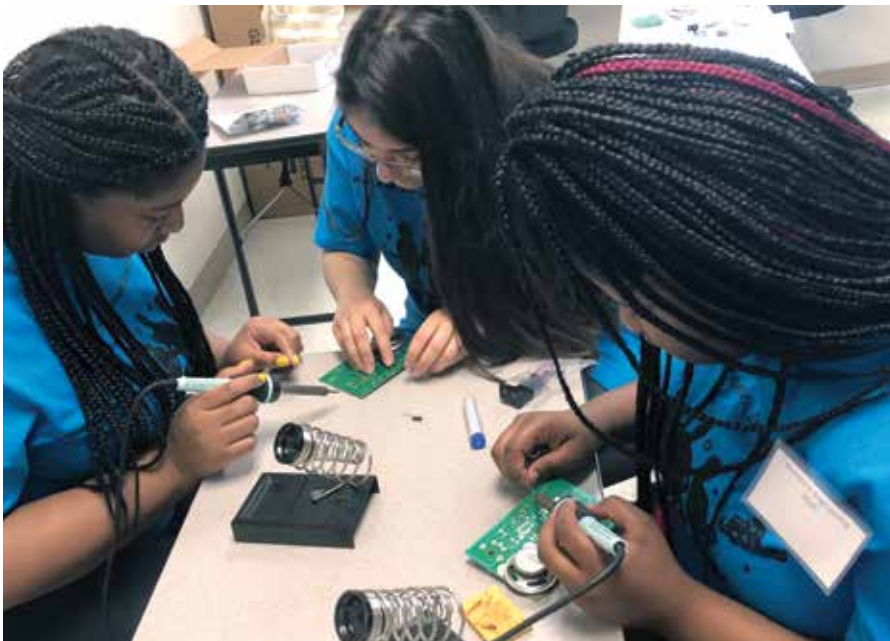
dedicated camps for Boy Scouts to learn and earn merit badges in Electronics, Plumbing, Automotive Maintenance, Entrepreneurship, and Cycling.

This year, for the first time, we offered a Summer Adventure camp at Ranken-Perryville for students to learn coding using the Sphero programmable robot. In our second year of camp at Ranken-Wentzville, we held a new course focused on learning and mastering the Python programming language to develop video games.

Also new this year, we partnered with the Air Force Association (AFA) and the Midwest Cyber Center to host a free AFA Cyber Security Camp. Fifty students participated in this inaugural camp! 

Special thanks to the following 2018 sponsors of the Summer Adventure Academies:

- Blueprint4Summer
- Dobbs Tire & Auto Centers
- Express Scripts
- Kiwanis Club of Bridgeton
- Mysun Foundation
- Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs
- Sunnen
- United Auto Workers - LETC
- Young Eagles



371

Enrolled in 2018

2,187

Since Summer Academies began in 2012

Left: Participants of the Women in Engineering High School Academy building radios.

STEM Academy Workshops for Educators

Summer workshops for educators were in high demand again this year as Ranken continued efforts to help teachers develop STEM curriculum and hands-on projects for their classrooms. The Power of Making, Tinkering and Engineering in the Classroom and Ranken's Computer Coding STEM Academy were

popular courses. Sold out this year were the LEGO MINDSTORM EV3 robotics workshops, which were offered in partnership with the Clavius Project and St. Louis Public Schools. Jeff Pitts, Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Ranken Technical College and leader of the Clavius Project, led the workshops. **R**



Educator Debra Repp from St. Catherine Laboure School transfers what she learned in the EV3 Robotics course directly to students in her classroom. Here she works with robotics team captain Daniel Irvine to program an EV3 robot. "The workshop challenges were the exact projects I am now using in my classroom, so it was very important to me that I understood how to build the codes," says Repp. "I have so many students that would thrive at Ranken and I believe teachers need to begin telling parents about Ranken's offerings while students are in middle school.

Why it Matters: The Success of the Pipeline Strategy

Fred DeGreeff, 17, already has his eyes on a STEM career. The junior from Webster Groves High School has participated in several of Ranken's Summer Academies, including welding, wood shop, go karts, spray painting and robotics. "I love the classes," he says. "Absolutely I'm now thinking about a STEM-related career. The robotics class in particular allowed me to work with a real robot that is used in the auto industry. I'm really interested in building my own computer and programming."

His father, Joseph, says, "The Ranken summer program has been fantastic. Fred comes home after camp and talks about the skills and future jobs he could do based on what he is learning."

Is Fred considering enrolling at Ranken? "Most definitely," he says. "I've already asked my dad if I could attend and he said yes!" **R**



To Career **Growth and Prosperity**

College Scorecard: Top 4 in St. Louis!

According to the U.S. Department of Education, Ranken Technical College ranks number 4 in the St. Louis region when examining the average salary of graduates after completing a college degree at a public or private nonprofit institution.

In fact, Ranken is the only college in the Top 4 that is a two-year accredited program according to the Department's College Scorecard report. The majority of our students graduate in half the time of a traditional four-year college, meaning they pay far less in overall tuition costs. **R**

College Scorecard Ranking

Washington University in St. Louis
Saint Louis University
Goldfarb School of Nursing
Ranken Technical College
National Average

Median Earnings After Graduation*

\$66,300
\$54,400
\$53,200
\$46,200
\$34,300

**at 10 years after completing school*

Source: U.S. Department of Education College Scorecard

When weighing these salaries against the costs of tuition, tools, books and fees, the return on investment for Ranken students is typically much higher than students who attend a traditional four-year college or university.



2017-18 Statement of Activities

Revenues

Tuition	Other Income
\$19,922,069	\$2,659,501
Investment Income	Total
\$5,667,299	\$32,327,070
Contributions	
\$1,811,041	
Auxillary Income	
\$2,267,160	

Expenses

Instruction	Operation of Maintenance of Plant
\$7,989,874	\$4,360,841
Academic Support	Auxillary Expenses
\$1,221,828	\$1,401,026
Institutional Support & Student Services	Pension
\$13,328,546	\$1,204,173
Fundraising	Total
\$305,778	\$29,812,066

Ranken Technical College Degree: Return on Investment and Economic Impact

900

Number of Ranken graduates annually

\$34,500,000

Typical aggregate earnings of a Ranken graduating class

80%

Ranken graduates that remain in greater St. Louis region

96%

Job Placement within 6 months of graduation

32,000

Estimated number of alumni in the local workforce

5

Average number of job opportunities for each Ranken graduate

\$46,200

Median earnings 10 years after graduation

\$16,096

Average annual cost to attend Ranken

Ranken Graduates **Pursue Rewarding Careers**



David Harder '13 *Control Systems Technology*

An electrician at the Anheuser-Busch InBev brewery in St. Louis for the past five years, David Harder credits Ranken's hands-on training and industry connections for getting him started on a rewarding career.

"Ranken offered a degree that gave me real-world experience that applied directly to my job," he says. "There was a direct correlation between all of the equipment I trained on in the labs at Ranken and the equipment I now maintain and repair here at Anheuser-Busch."

Harder started working part-time at the brewery prior to graduation. Soon after, he was offered a full-time job. "I was well-paid from the beginning, starting with an above-industry average hourly rate," he says. "On a routine basis, I work on anything from electrical equipment to troubleshooting motors and drives, calibrating instrumentation, and modifying/adding PLC programming. I also was able to complete advanced training so that I have even more opportunities to work on an incredibly diverse range of production equipment."

He adds, "There are so many hidden values in a Ranken education that you might not realize them all until you are well under way in a career. Certainly, a degree from Ranken will pay monetary and career dividends throughout your career."



Cherrie Bommarito '93 *Architectural Technology*

Cherrie Bommarito is a CAD Systems Specialist at Hussmann Corporation, involved in sheet metal design using a platform called Solid Edge. "You can't beat the sheet metal functionality," she says of Solid Edge.

Bommarito has used the 3D solid modeling software for more than 20 years and is responsible for helping teams apply it consistently in all designs. She also hosts a quarterly Solid Edge users group and authors a monthly newsletter that showcases best practices and helpful user tips for both new and more experienced employees. "It's easy to get so busy with trying to get something done that new commands and functionality, which could be very helpful, just pass you by," she says of her educational efforts.

She found her career passion early, when she often was the only female in school mechanical drawing or shop classes. Her stepfather, who worked in construction, asked her to help with drawings for various construction projects, which inspired her to enroll at Ranken and pursue a technical degree in architectural design. She was drawn to the program's hands-on CAD training. "I got a job in a machine shop after graduation, and it just clicked," she says. "I loved creating drawings of machine parts."

She went on to earn a bachelor's degree in industrial technology. Her advice to women in a male-dominated field: find job mentors and build a support network. "If it's your passion," she adds, "follow it no matter what anyone says."

Ranken Technical College 2017-18 Board of Trustees

New Board Members

We welcome the following new members to the Ranken Technical College Board of Trustees:

Vicki Dawkins

President, Emerson Hermetic Motor

As president of Emerson Hermetic Motor Division, Vicki Dawkins has more than 30 years of experience across many industries, including Electrical Engineering at NASA, Process Control at National Steel and Supply Chain and General Management at Emerson. She first joined Emerson as a materials analyst in its motors business in 1995. She also was manager of planning and marketing services for Emerson's Air Moving Motors. After leaving to work for another company, she rejoined Emerson in 2007 as the worldwide commodity leader for multiple commodities. As Dawkins advanced at Emerson, she has served in leadership positions in St. Louis as well as in Emerson's international operations in Hungary and Hong Kong, including serving as President of Emerson Asia-Pacific. She holds an electrical engineering degree from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and a master's degree in business administration from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.



Sarah Wendt

Vice President, Talent Acquisition, Express Scripts

Sarah serves as Vice President, Talent Acquisition for Express Scripts. In this role, Sarah is responsible for developing and advancing the transformative roadmap for talent acquisition, and fulfilling all hiring on behalf of the enterprise. Prior to joining Express Scripts, Sarah led firm-wide transformative change efforts for Edward Jones in the sales division, and the HR division including the evolution of the organization's primary client service role (n = 14,000), the reorganization of the firm's strategy division (n = 550), and the evolution of the talent acquisition function. Sarah began her career in small company and start-up environments. Sarah graduated from St. Louis University with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a minor in Philosophy. She later graduated from the University of Missouri with her master's degree in business administration.



Rebecca Fritsch

Vice President, Commercial Relationship Manager, Fifth Third Bank

The newest member of the Board of Trustees, Rebecca Fritsch has more than 20 years of experience in banking and corporate finance. She has been with Fifth Third Bank since 2015 and is responsible for advising and providing financial solutions to companies, including lines of credit, financial structuring, payment solutions and M & A advisory services. Prior to joining Fifth Third, she was the Director of Treasury for Charter Communications. She also was a treasury management officer for several local banks and a senior financial analyst at May Department Stores. Fritsch holds a master's degree in finance from Saint Louis University.



Officers

J. Jeffrey Pitts

Chairman of the Board

Retired Senior Plant Manager
Anheuser-Busch InBev

Rhonda K. Hamm-Niebruegge

Vice Chairman of the Board

Airport Director
Lambert-St. Louis International Airport

Steve Moss

Secretary-Treasurer

Retired Senior Vice President
New Business Development
Nooter/Eriksen Inc.

Trustees

Michael S. Adorjan
President
FW Electric

Michael R. Loynd
Attorney/Investment Manager
The Loynd Group

Vicki Dawkins
President, Hermetic Motor
Emerson

Art McCoy, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Jennings School District

Phil Evans
Sr. Vice President Engineering
Hussmann

Michael P. McMillan
President & CEO
Urban League of Metropolitan
St. Louis, Inc.

Rebecca Fritsch
Vice President, Commercial
Relationship Manager,
Fifth Third Bank

Edward L. Monser IV
Retired President & Chief
Operating Officer
Emerson

Randy Fusz
President & CEO
Lou Fusz Automotive Network

David J. Schepers
Retired Vice President
Ameren Corporation

Thomas A. Giesekeing
Vice President, National Service
Department
Enterprise Fleet Operations

Bruno B. Schmitter
President & CEO
Hydromat, Inc.

Timothy H. Goodson
Vice President of Operations
Spire Energy

Sarah Wendt
Vice President, Talent
Acquisition
Express Scripts

Pamela B. Jackson
Retired Vice President
Emerson

Scott T. Wittkop
President/COO
Central Division
McCarthy Holdings, Inc.

Lanny Lamont
President
Davlan Engineering Inc.

RANKEN

TECHNICAL COLLEGE

4431 FINNEY AVENUE | SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63113
(314) 371-0236 | RANKEN.EDU

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ST. LOUIS MO
PERMIT NO 2147

