

# RANKEN

TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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

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## REINVENTING TECHNICAL EDUCATION

### 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

## Advanced Manufacturing

*Introducing Ranken West*

# RANKEN

TECHNICAL COLLEGE





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Ranken President Don Pohl holds the 2020 First Place Career Pathways Partnership Excellence Award from the National Career Pathways Network while standing in front of the recently completed Robert W. Plaster Free Enterprise Center.

# Letter From The President

As we go to press for this year’s Annual Report, I’m proud to share with you that Ranken Technical College was recently awarded First Place in the Career Pathways Partnership Excellence Award by the Center for Occupational Research and Development’s National Career Pathways Network (NCPN).

The 2020 NCPN award honors Ranken for our integrated work-based learning model, which provides students with opportunities for accelerated career advancement, earning while they learn. All Ranken programs under this model have adopted an instructional sequence in which students rotate between classes at Ranken and paid work-based learning experiences. Another example of innovation is our commitment to on-site industry training through microenterprises, including those located in the Robert W. Plaster Free Enterprise Center.

As you will see in this report, we have a growing list of apprenticeships available for our students. The “earn while learning” opportunities are in high demand. Despite the ongoing COVID pandemic, many of our technical career pathways have increased enrollment this fall. The average job placement rate for our graduates remains at 98 percent or higher.

2020 has been a challenging year due to the impact of the coronavirus on schools and colleges across the country. However, Ranken faculty and staff have been incredibly resilient and innovative in curriculum adaptations to ensure that students continue to receive the hands-on training they need. To make sure they also find jobs, Ranken was first in the region to create a virtual job fair for recruiters.

Innovation. That’s what Ranken has been known for ever since its establishment. And it’s how we will continue to meet the needs of both employers and students so that, together, we can adapt and overcome any and all challenges - now and in the future.

*Don Pohl*  
President





# Ranken West: EDA Awards \$5.1 Million for New Workforce Development Center

By next fall, Ranken Technical College will open the doors to a new model of education, partnering directly with school districts to create a distinct pipeline for students interested in STEM technical careers.

In June 2020, Ranken broke ground for a new location in Troy, Mo., located 55 miles northwest of St. Louis. The facility is the result of a unique partnership between Ranken, the Lincoln County R-III (LCR3) School District, Lincoln County, the City of Troy and the State of Missouri.

“We are thrilled with this long-awaited, much needed addition to our community,” said Mark Penny, EdD, LCR3 Superintendent. “With this partnership, we can train talented technical workers to meet the needs of employers here.”

Through an innovative early college model, Ranken West will focus on moving students through technical education courses

*The new Ranken West educational model enables students to earn high school and college credits simultaneously, thereby accelerating the timeframe to be job-ready while also decreasing the costs of obtaining a technical degree.*

beginning in 9th grade. Students in grades 9-10 will focus on academics and career exploration. From 11th-12th grade, and for one year post-high school, students will focus on hands-on skills development and work-based learning, ultimately

earning an associate degree and/or professional technical certifications.

“It’s a transformative model to reach down into the high school, and perhaps, also into middle school, so that students and families understand the value of a technical career,” said Jeff Pitts, Ranken’s Chairman of the Board, who spoke at the groundbreaking just after the U.S. Department of

Commerce’s Economic Development Administration announced it had awarded a \$5.1 million grant to help fund the new facility. An additional \$1 million grant also was awarded by the State of Missouri and Lincoln County has contributed \$300,000 to support the project.

“If there is one thing we all know, it’s that the world is ever-changing,” said Margie Vandeven, State Commissioner for the Missouri’s Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. “Classrooms must adjust and partnerships developed between communities, schools, businesses and state and local leaders so that children have more choices that can lead to rewarding careers.”

Missouri Governor Mike Parson, who also attended the groundbreaking, said the innovative education model is equal in significance to the novel certificate and degree programs Ranken will offer at the Troy location, including hydroponics and solar, wind and biofuel technology tracks. “You’ve got to know what the workforce needs,” he said. “It’s the first time that Ranken has partnered with agriculture on the tech side and that’s great because it shows that they understand what the jobs are and what skills are needed.”



Federal, state and local officials join Ranken leaders for the ceremonial groundbreaking just south of Troy, Mo. on June 17.



(L to R) Missouri Governor Michael Parson, Ranken Board of Trustees Chairman J. Jeffrey Pitts, Ranken President Don Pohl.





Ranken West Locations

Ranken West will combine programs from Ranken - Troy as well as Ranken - Wentzville. The two locations, just 13 miles apart, will operate as one administrative unit, each offering integrated work-based apprenticeships at regional businesses where students can be paid while learning and earning their degrees. All totaled, each student will be able to log approximately 2,000 paid hours in work-based learning environments.

Both locations will offer the opportunity for students to earn a Bachelor of Science in Applied Management (BSAM). Coursework for the degree track, which students

can complete within two years after graduating high school (Year 14), will emphasize project management, business operations and the development of entrepreneurial skills. BSAM students also will be required to oversee a microenterprise operation as part of their degree requirements.

Ranken West - Wentzville

- Opened in 2012
- 50,000 square feet

Technical Career Tracks Offered:

- Advanced Manufacturing Technology
- Certified Automotive Dealer Technician
- UAW Electrical Program
- UAW Tool & Die Program
- Diesel Technology

Ranken West - Troy

- Opening Fall 2021
- Serves 5 counties
- 23,000 square feet
- 4,000 square foot Aquaponics Lab

Technical Career Tracks Offered:

- Integrated Early College Model  
Beginning in 9th grade
- Advanced Manufacturing Technology
- Agriculture Technology  
Industrial Engineering Technology  
Farming/Aquaponics
- Energy  
Construction/Production/Maintenance  
Solar/Wind/Biofuels
- Construction  
Carpentry/Electrical/Plumbing  
Building Systems Engineering Technology

*In the Ranken West integrated early college model, students will have earned 30 college credits by the time they graduate from high school.*

By Grade 12:

- High School Diploma and 30 college credits

By Grade 13:

- Associate Degree
- Apprentice Certification (through U.S. Department of Labor)
- Professional Certification
- Paid Work Experience

By Grade 14:

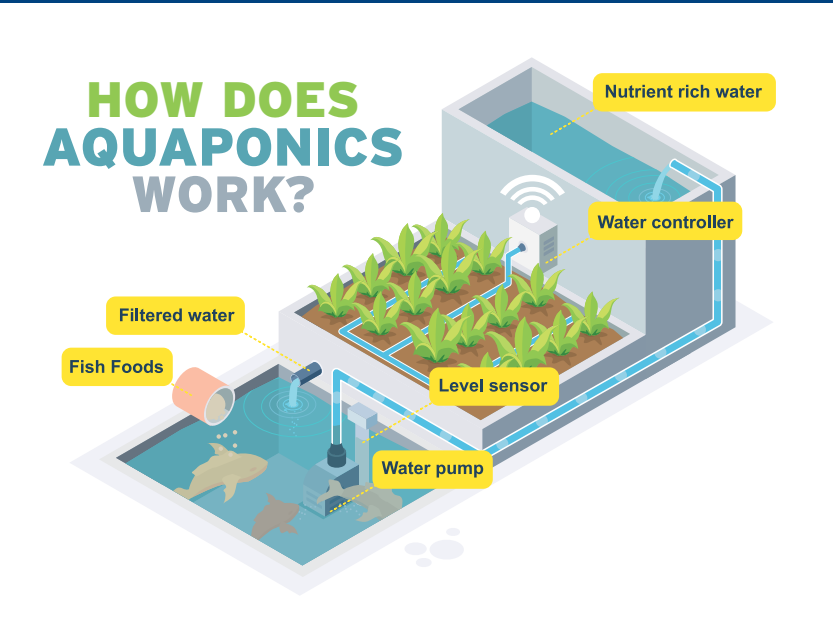
- Bachelor of Science in Applied Management (BSAM)

A New Frontier: Agriculture Technology

By adding a career track in agriculture technology, Ranken West directly addresses the needs of communities surrounding Troy. Lincoln County is ranked as one of the largest agriculture producers in the state, generating \$200 million+ in agriculture sales annually.

1,200 # of farm and ranch families in Lincoln County

Specifically, the need for skilled workers in the aquaponics industry is on the rise. Currently Missouri has 70 aquaponics producers in the state, with job growth anticipated to grow by 15 percent annually for the next several years. Globally, aquaponics is an estimated \$1 billion industry. At Ranken West, the Aquaponics Lab being developed will not only be a hands-on training facility, but also be designed to raise produce and fish. Students will have the opportunity to not only maintain the lab but also learn real-world business skills to bring the products to market.





# Ranken Alum Kicks Off Support for Ranken West Endowed Scholarships

Elite Tool in Moscow Mills, Mo., is in the middle of a major expansion that will result in doubling the size of its plant by late 2020 to almost 70,000 square feet. “In 2008 we had around 24 employees and had an estimated \$4 million in sales annually,” says Frank Roth IV, president of the company. “We now have 71 employees, our annual sales have tripled to \$13.3 million, and we keep a constant eye out for skilled workers to meet the demand for our manufactured products.”

The company, which offers fabrication, machining, and assembly to defense, aerospace, marine and commercial industries, is situated just down the road from Ranken West’s new Troy location. Roth, a 2000 graduate of the Precision Machining Technology Program at Ranken, and his wife, Fran, were the very first to donate to the new Ranken West Scholarship fund.

“I firmly believe in the Ranken model,” says Roth. “With the skills I’ve learned and the opportunities I’ve had in industry to further my training, I was able to run a machine and fabrication shop and become the plant manager of Elite Tool when I was just 26 years old. My wife Fran and I are now owners of the company.”

Currently, Roth has several Ranken students in the Precision Machining Technology program participating in the college’s integrated work-based learning program as apprentices at Elite Tool. “I’m looking out for my own future as an employer to see if we can collaborate on training the skilled workers needed for tomorrow. I need



Skilled workers are in high demand at Elite Tool.



The new Ranken West Scholarship Fund helps support training and education of skilled workers.



Frank Roth III with his son Frank Roth IV, the owner of Elite Tool and both Ranken graduates.

to find a pipeline of new employees and Ranken’s model helps us to do just that.”

Roth’s father, Frank III, is also a Ranken graduate, earning an associate degree in Diesel-Gasoline Engine Mechanics and Diesel Electric Systems Technology in 1973. He now works for his son at Elite Tool.

“I received scholarships when I went to Ranken,” says Roth IV. “The money that I was awarded paid for my entire first year and part of my second and I ultimately graduated with zero debt for my education.”

He added, “I’ve been very successful in my career, thanks to the start I got at Ranken. It’s time to give back – to Ranken and to the community in which I live. As the demand continues to rise for more skilled workers in the region, we all need to step up and support this collaborative partnership in the community and help students on their way to successful tech careers.” **R**

## Ranken West Endowed Scholarships

Many of the students interested in attending Ranken West will be in need of financial assistance and they could use your help.

This past summer, Ranken announced the creation of the Ranken West Endowed Scholarship Fund to benefit students from the region. Students accepted into Ranken-Troy or Ranken-Wentzville will be eligible to apply.

For most, the following resources are already available:

- A+ Scholarships (State of Missouri)
- Federal Pell Grants (both secondary and post-secondary students)
- Learn 2 Earn Scholarship Credits from Ranken

In addition to these resources, the recently established Ranken West Endowed Scholarship Fund will create additional opportunities to help students take advantage of the new educational programs and partnerships and prepare them for exciting, new technical careers in the region.

## Can you help?

Donations of all sizes will be needed to fund these scholarships and create a permanent fund that ensures a quality education to all students throughout the Ranken West region. To date, close to \$210,000 has been pledged or contributed to help establish the fund.

If you are interested in contributing, please contact:

Brien McCarthy  
Director of Major Gifts  
Ranken Technical College  
bpmccarthy@ranken.edu  
(314) 286-3602

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this effort!





# Safe Environments, Hands-On Classes Continue to Draw Students to Ranken

With 12 admissions counselors focused on identifying and recruiting potential students, Ranken Technical College rapidly pivoted to respond to COVID restrictions that prevented high schools throughout the region from holding on-site college recruitment fairs.

“We adapted very quickly and moved from traditional marketing efforts and on-site recruitment fairs to digital and online recruitment, direct mail, and tapping into various social media platforms,” explains Frank Miller, Dean of Enrollment Management. “We kept the foot on the pedal as far as marketing goes and we never hit a speed bump in the number of inquiries we received.”

The College focused on its key strength – hands-on technical training – while also telling students

that it was committed to offering safe environments in which to learn.

- Ranken’s core message for all potential and incoming students is that it continues to have:
- On-campus classes
  - Hands-on technical training
  - Safe environments in which to learn

Potential students were offered virtual meetings and conference calls to answer any questions. On-campus tours remained available, but with safety measures put in place. Visitors had to wear masks, make appointments rather than walk in, and talk with admissions counselors outdoors. Tours also were limited to the areas in which students had a career interest.



Dave Munie, plumbing instructor, wears a mask during in-person instruction.



Automotive students sanitize work areas during hands-on training.

All students are required to wear masks while on campus for hands-on technical training.

In a major move, the College also eliminated the requirement for students to submit an ACT or SAT college placement exam score. “It was one of the ways we tried to remove barriers so that potential students could attend Ranken,” says Miller.

The end result – enrollment held steady. And in some areas, Ranken hired additional faculty to meet demand for more courses.

### Safety First

Hands-on, on-site classes meant that Ranken had to be innovative and committed to keeping students safe during the pandemic. Administrators made several key decisions focused on safety:

- Health and temperature checks are mandatory for anyone on-site

- Masks are required
- Professional cleaning crews regularly sanitize every building at each campus several times a day
- Faculty and students sanitize tools and equipment in all programs
- Plexiglas partitions have been installed in dining areas
- One-way directional signs are in key stairwells
- Dorm rooms have been re-configured and more residential space created to allow for one student per dorm room
- Sanitizing stations have been installed
- Social distancing is emphasized at all times



Plexiglas partitions have been installed in the dining areas.



Social distancing is practiced in Carpentry during on-site classes.



# Ranken Established Many New Protocols to Accommodate Students and Teachers

In all six career divisions at Ranken, innovations in technical education and curriculum were implemented as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic:

## Hybrid Classes

Ranken has adopted a hybrid class model for many programs, whereby students rotate between on-site, hands-on technical training and online coursework from home. The rotations allowed Ranken to separate students as much as possible while keeping the critical hands-on training component.

## More Hours for Technical Training

Ranken implemented extended opportunities for students to receive technical training and



To enable all students to receive extensive hands-on training while rotating on and off campus, Ranken instructors extended classroom hours.

personalized attention while minimizing class sizes. Instead of four hours, many classes were increased to six hours while students were on campus either every other day or every few days.

## Online Only Coursework

To maximize on-site classroom space and social distancing while giving more flexibility for students to complete written assignments, Ranken moved General Education courses fully online as of March 2020. All theory-based components of technical instruction also were transitioned online.

## Ongoing Support

With multiple changes, students and their families initially had many questions. To rapidly respond to any concerns, Ranken set up a dedicated help line: [help@ranken.edu](mailto:help@ranken.edu).



At any given time, up to half of Ranken's Information Technology students are on campus. The rest work from home, with real-time faculty instruction available virtually.

*"I'm proud to say that faculty and staff have been incredibly innovative this year to ensure we maintain our nationally recognized hand-on technical training component in all of our programs."*

Donald J. Pohl, President, Ranken Technical College

The portal was a huge hit, not only with students, but also with families.


"In the first several weeks of the pandemic, students worried about not having computers or access to Wi-Fi or they asked questions about completing online coursework or wondered how Ranken would handle technical training," says executive assistant Shari Elford, who responded to hundreds of emails from the help line. "We found needed resources, called students multiple times to ensure them that we were here to assist, and found ways to make it all work by connecting them to the right people and faculty they needed."

The email portal is so successful that Ranken is keeping it as an integral communication avenue for students. A virtual chat room on the Ranken website also is available to provide ongoing

Ranken now offers a variety of educational models, including online coursework and on-site technical training in all six career divisions:

- Automotive
- Architecture
- Construction
- Electrical
- Information Technology
- Manufacturing

support and rapid responses to questions and concerns.

Says Elford, "The bottom line is that we are all committed to ensuring students have their questions answered so that they can succeed at Ranken." 



As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ranken offered virtual classes for some IT and general education courses.



Hands-on training remains the foundation of Ranken's technical education programs.



## Job Placement is a Top Priority At Ranken, Even During a Pandemic

Ranken's expanding connections with industry partners continue to result in high job placement rates in every technical career path it offers. Job placement rates for graduates in all programs are high, averaging 98 percent. Among the programs with 100 percent job placement rates and high enrollments are Plumbing Technology, Automotive Maintenance, HVAC, Architecture Technology, and Fabrication & Welding Technology.

### Virtual Job Fairs

In May, Ranken Technical College's popular biannual job fair went virtual, with almost 200 companies registering for and participating in online chats with students and recent graduates.

"Ranken was the first – and only – college in the region during the first few months of the COVID pandemic that held a job fair last spring," says Len Schwartz, vice president of network operations at Madison Communications Company in Staunton, Ill. "And yes, we found the employees we needed, thanks to that effort."

***"What I really liked was the opportunity to go to Ranken's website in advance and see who signed up to participate," says Justin Waldrop, Madison's manager of technical operations. "I went through every resume and was able to go direct to the students I was interested in and request interviews during the job fair."***

For years, Ranken has set statewide records with the number of employers participating in its job fairs, which are held every spring and fall. When COVID-19 impacted on-campus events this year, Ranken was challenged to create a virtual job fair to keep potential employers connected with students.

"We worked with a company that already housed our online job database and we were able to upload resumes and enable potential employers to schedule online and audio chats with students," says Janie Summers, Ranken's career services director. "The prototype was tested in April and we went 'live' online just a few weeks later."

There were technology issues that challenged both employers and students during the job fair, but the end result was that many Ranken students were able to find jobs and employers were pleased with the innovative opportunity to interview students and find skilled technical

workers. As COVID restrictions continued throughout the region, Ranken held a second virtual job fair in October 2020.

Online access also enabled Waldrop to filter resumes to find students living near the company's more rural location in Illinois. After



After participating in the spring virtual job fair, Ranken graduates Dylan Heap (left) and Jeremy McAdams found jobs at Madison Communications in Staunton, Ill.

follow-up job interviews, two Ranken students were hired.

Says Waldrop, "They are amazing employees and definitely had strong core knowledge in the technologies we have. They also have a strong work ethic that was instilled by Ranken throughout their training."

He adds, "Technology for a virtual job fair can always be fine-tuned, but I would participate in both an on-site job fair and a virtual fair again. We needed to find good employees, and I found them at Ranken." **R**

### Work-based Apprenticeships

The College's nationally recognized integrated workplace learning model enables some students to rotate between hands-on technical courses on campus and on-the-job, paid apprenticeships with companies throughout the region. These "earn while learning" programs are now in:

- Advanced Precision Machine Technology (St. Louis and Wentzville)
- Automotive Professional Technician (St. Louis)
- Certified Dealership Technician Program (St. Louis)
- Professional Collision Repair Technology (St. Louis)
- Diesel Professional Technician (Perryville and Wentzville)
- Fabrication & Welding Technology (Perryville)
- High Performance Racing Technology (St. Louis)
- Industrial Engineering Technology (Perryville and St. Louis)
- UAW Electrical Program (Wentzville)
- UAW Tool & Die Program (Wentzville)

"We continually search for more companies to participate in our apprenticeship programs," says Shelly Jones, Ranken's business and industry relationship coordinator. "It's a win-win for both sides, because students are able to work in real-world environments and employers can train prospective employees on the actual technology being used in their companies."

The College also offers on-site 'reverse apprenticeships' through its long-standing microenterprises,



Ranken-Perryville student Riley Reihn apprenticed at TG Missouri while working on his degree in Industrial Engineering Technology. TG Missouri, a large automotive parts manufacturer, was one of the first companies to support the opening of Ranken-Perryville in 2017 and offer paid apprenticeships. Says Riley Reihn, "I was able to apply the skills I learned in the classroom and alternate that with on-the-job training at TG Missouri. They offered me a full-time job as an Engineering Technician after I graduated in 2019. I have a great career started, thanks to the opportunity I had to work while learning at Ranken."

which bring actual manufacturing and assembly lines from regional employers on campus, where students can be paid while working and learning technical skills. This

integrated work-based model can be found in Ranken's new Plaster Free Enterprise Center and is planned for the upcoming Troy location. **R**



# App Inventor STEM Summer Academy

This summer, middle school students enrolled in Ranken's App Inventor Academy created a number of fun video games – all from their homes.

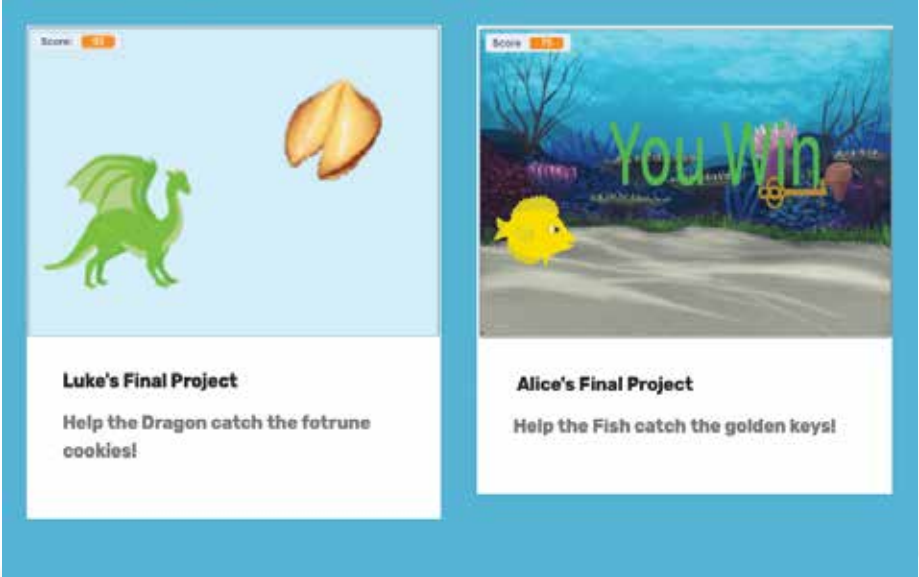
The students, from St. Louis, Wentzville and surrounding areas, used Scratch, a free computer software program designed for children ages 8 to 16 and developed by the Lifelong Kindergarten Group at the MIT Media Lab. Ranken IT instructor Jeff Scott taught the five-day class virtually, connecting with students in real time to guide the development of games and answer questions.

"Teaching the Scratch Programming Summer Academy course in an online format with middle-school students was definitely a unique experience," says Scott. "I thoroughly enjoyed the class and the students seemed to enjoy it as well. I even noticed a few parents watching via our Zoom format."

*"As parents, we were amazed at how much was possible with the right mindset and flexibility of Ranken staff," says Chad Eggen.*

The Scratch Programming camp was among the youth camps offered by Ranken this year to spark interest in science, technology, engineering and math careers. Although coronavirus restrictions forced some summer programs to be cancelled, Ranken educators were innovative in finding ways to connect.

"We needed to be cautious but creative in finding ways to continue



Fun games were created by participants in Ranken's App Inventor STEM Summer Academy.

at least some of our Adventure Academies this year," says Barbara Bragg, Ranken's director of STEM pathways development. "Information technology courses were the logical choice to offer because much of the work could be done virtually on a computer."

Alice and Luke Eggen were two siblings enrolled in the App Inventor camp. "Camp was fun!" added Alice's brother, Luke. "With the help of Ranken and my instructor Mr. Scott, I learned a lot about programming and how to create my own game. I want to go back next year."

"The class got me excited about science and technology," says Alice.

"As parents, we were amazed at how much was possible with the right mindset and flexibility of Ranken staff," says the children's father, Chad Eggen. "Even though almost everything else was cancelled due to COVID-19, Ranken found a way to make it happen. The kids were so thrilled that they could still go to

a summer camp! They interacted with the instructor and classmates through the virtual experience, and they were eager to show us what they created each day."



Alice and Luke Eggen were two of several children in the App Inventor class.

## Racing and Robotics

A five-day, on-site camp also was held in partnership with Victory Raceway in St. Louis. There, with face masks required, limited class sizes, and social distancing enforced, students built EV3 LEGO Mindstorms robots and raced electric go karts as they learned about robotics and race engineering.

## Funding Support

Ranken was able to offer summer programs for students this year thanks to a generous grant from Blueprint4Summer, which enabled the College to offer free registration to campers as well as provide masks and hand sanitizer for on-site programs.

## Learn2Earn

Ranken's innovative Learn2Earn program, which offers tuition discounts for student participation in a wide range of STEM activities, is now fully under way. The program, piloted in 2018, currently has 848 students in grades 6 through 12 as well as a pool of STEM educators from Ranken's STEM Academies for Educators as members. Students can earn up to \$10,000 in scholarship credits toward their future education at Ranken Technical College by completing approved STEM activities or programs. Partner organizations include The Clavius Project, Marian Middle School, the Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri, and the Hawthorne Leadership School for Girls. For more information about the program, visit [learn2earn.ranken.edu](https://learn2earn.ranken.edu).



Students racing go-karts at Victory Raceway.

# STEM Academies for Educators

EV3 LEGO Mindstorms Robotics & Engineering and Dirty Jobs...That Pay Well were two on-site Summer STEM Academies held for educators this summer. The hands-on courses, which offered teachers curriculum ideas and hands-on project development for use in their classrooms, also gave participants a chance to tour Ranken and learn about the technical degrees and certificate programs available.



The goal of Ranken's STEM Academies for Educators is to equip teachers with knowledge and fun activities to stimulate interest among students for STEM careers.



Fiscal Year 2019-2020

| REVENUES          |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Tuition & Fees    | \$25,718,401 |
| Investment Income | \$1,964,612  |
| Contributions     | \$4,110,169  |
| Auxiliary Income  | \$2,322,660  |
| Other Income      | \$1,944,167  |
| Total             | \$36,060,009 |

| EXPENDITURES                             |              |
|--|--------------|
| Instruction                              | \$8,995,883  |
| Academic Support                         | \$1,078,325  |
| Institutional Support & Student Services | \$17,610,984 |
| Fund Raising                             | \$307,191    |
| Operation of Maintenance of Plant        | \$4,209,120  |
| Auxiliary Expenses                       | \$1,485,329  |
| Pension                                  | \$5,913,499  |
| Total                                    | \$39,600,331 |

Pictured: future site of Ranken West, just south of Troy, Mo. and east of U.S. Route 61, known as The Avenue of the Saints.

2019-2020 Board Members

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|--|---|
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