

Our Vision for the Future



Welcome to the inaugural issue of the *RankenReview* newsletter, a way to keep the Ranken community informed about our programs and activities as we continue our mission to provide the comprehensive hands-on training and education necessary to prepare our students to be the next generation skilled workforce.

Communication is a key factor in ensuring our programs and curriculum are aligned with the needs of industry. Ranken is recognized for collaborating with industry in its hands-on training programs, integrated internships, and on-campus manufacturing cells where students can work to earn while performing real jobs.

We were among the first to pioneer industry partnerships that allow our students to rotate from hands-on classroom training to 4 or 8-week onsite job training at automotive and manufacturing companies. In Perryville, we embedded our diesel technology program in a truck repair and maintenance facility and in St. Louis, our students in Architecture, HVACR, Plumbing, and Carpentry and Building Construction continue to design and build houses in the area.

Our vision for the future at Ranken Technical College is to enhance and strengthen the growing partnership with industry by improving and expanding on these initiatives and adding new ones.

The current Strategic Plan refines our focus in three key areas: Student Recruitment and Retention, Student Access, and Academic Quality. We are enhancing efforts to better recruit and retain students. We are identifying new ways to make tuition more affordable and searching for more opportunities to bring our training programs directly into the communities that need them. We are also refining benchmarks and quality metrics for our curriculum so that our outstanding faculty are successful in meeting the needs of both students and industry.

In this and future issues, we will build awareness among all Ranken stakeholders, including alumni and potential students and business partners of the critical, unmet demand for skilled workers in this country. Stories will include updates on ways the college is fulfilling its mission by helping meet this demand, as well as features highlighting Ranken alumni, faculty, staff, students, donors, trustees, and friends so that we can learn about some of the wonderful people involved in supporting our mission. You can help by sharing our mission and vision with others, bringing forward ideas to share, and spreading the news about the Ranken difference.

Don Pohl
President



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Robert W. Plaster Free Enterprise Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



Pictured above: Lyda Krewson, (fourth from left), Mayor of the City of St. Louis, is pictured with Don Pohl (center), Ranken President, and Angela Martinez (far right), Regional Director, U.S. Department of Commerce, along with Ranken Trustees, at the ribbon cutting for the new Robert W. Plaster Free Enterprise Center.

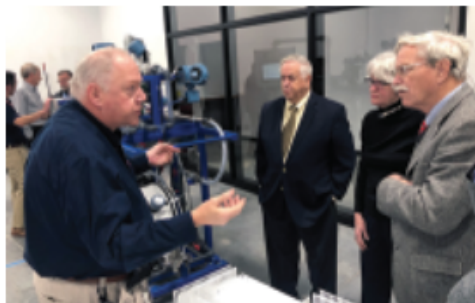
Ranken officials joined with the mayor of the City of St. Louis, industry leaders, students and guests to open the Robert W. Plaster Free Enterprise Center this past November. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was an opportunity for Ranken to showcase the completed interior of its new microenterprise manufacturing facility just one block east of its main St. Louis campus.

"Ten years ago, we started with a dream and one microenterprise at Ranken," Jeff Pitts, chairman of Ranken's Board of Trustees, told the crowd. "This is the next logical step and it's a game-changer because our students can learn to work and work to learn."

"This building is a perfect example of our mission," added Ranken President Don Pohl. "The best way to train students is with real world work."

The 23,000 square-foot building in the 4300 block of Finney Avenue stands in the

footprint of the former West End Laundry, which was demolished to make way for the Plaster Free Enterprise Center. Descendants of Robert Dunn, who founded the laundry, saw how Ranken honored the legacy of their family, which was one of nine commercial laundries in St. Louis when it opened in 1910.



"To see that Ranken showcased photos of our building and preserved some pieces from

it, it just brings tears to my eyes," said Jeanne Cremins, granddaughter of the founder.

Her brother, Tom Dunn, added, "Our father and grandfather built the laundry plant and our dad even donated lathes to Ranken's carpentry program years ago. Now, to watch the transformation into a new manufacturing area is, in my mind, spectacular."

JEMA, an architectural firm in St. Louis, designed the new building. L. Keeley Construction built it, with help from students in Ranken's architecture technology, carpentry, plumbing and HVACR programs.

"Students here learn more than just job skills," noted Mayor Lyda Krewson. "They learn leadership skills. I'm so excited to have this in the City of St. Louis to advance manufacturing in our city and build up the economy with skilled workers."

Angela Martinez, regional director for the U.S. Department of Commerce, which awarded Ranken a \$2.35 million grant to help build the center, told Ranken leaders, "In building this skilled workforce in St. Louis, you are building a vibrant economic community and creating a bright future for your students."

An educational symposium to honor the significant donation from the Robert W. Plaster Foundation to help fund the center's construction is planned for later this spring.

In the meantime, Ranken is making plans for the property across the street, which it also acquired recently. The land used to be home to one of the first ice manufacturing plants in the country, the former Merchants Ice and Coal Company.

"The Robert W. Plaster Free Enterprise Center is just the start of our efforts to promote and enhance manufacturing and train a skilled workforce for the region," said Stan Shoun, Ranken's chief executive officer. "Stay tuned." **R**

Career Paths:

Building Systems Engineering Technology



One of Ranken's most innovative programs is based at its Wentzville, Mo., facility – Building Systems Engineering Technology. The associate degree program focuses on designing the interior system components of a residential or commercial facility, including fire protection, HVACR, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing.

"It's the confluence between drafting and engineering," says instructor Daniel Stevens. "We teach students how to use sophisticated architectural design software, such as AutoCAD, Revit, and BlueBeam, and to develop 3D computer models and schemat-

ics in the first semester. They then have semester-long coursework focused on the design/build of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems."

The program is unique in the United States and hones in on the advanced drafting software and technological skills and knowledge needed to complete building systems engineering projects, graduating students in just 16 months. Says Stevens, "Four-year engineering programs seldom teach students the drafting software needed for building systems design. Ranken, then, fills that industry void."

The median annual salary for graduates is \$49,000 and graduates are in high demand. Just 11 weeks into the program, several students already have scored internships with regional companies, including 22-year-old Matt Triplett, who says, "I'm thrilled to have a design internship at CCI. It's an exciting field and Ranken's program was a good economical choice for me to learn and get into the field rapidly."

Instructor John Baldwin says interest is growing in the program and companies are starting to notice. "We're finding new companies all the time who are interested in hiring our graduates and we're incorporating site visits as part of the training program. It gives students a real-world view of this career path and I think the only thing we need to do is increase awareness of the program with both students and industry partners for this program to double in size rapidly." **R**



News Briefs:

Ranken and Spire Collaborate on New HVAC Program



Six Ranken Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC) students will start in a new program this spring semester to prepare to be utility technicians. The program was designed in collaboration with Spire, Inc. which provided the equipment, expertise and philanthropic support. Spire also interviewed and chose the participating students. Following the "earn while you learn" model successfully implemented in other Ranken programs, students will receive training in eight week segments and then rotate out to a paid internship, reinforcing newly learned skills working alongside a Spire mentor.

Primm Named ACBSP Site Reviewer



Barbara Primm, PhD, department chair for Ranken's Bachelor of Applied Science in Applied Management (BSAM) program has been selected as a site reviewer for the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP).

In this role, Dr. Primm will visit schools within the United States and abroad to evaluate business schools and programs in candidacy for ACBSP accreditation. In 2019, she became chair-elect for the ACBSP Region 5 Midwest Council, which covers five states. She also represents Region 5 on the ACBSP national marketing committee.

Ranken's BSAM program has been accredited since 2017 and the College will host the Region 5 regional conference in October 2020.

Alumni Spotlight:

Pat White, President, Greater St. Louis Labor Council, AFL-CIO, USW- Gas Workers, Local #11-6



Pat White leans in as he visits with students in the HVACR program at Ranken Technical College. "A lot of this is still the same," he says, as he surveys students learning pipefitting and advanced heating and cooling repairs. "That's because Ranken always has focused on the right thing – teaching these kids the hands-on skills they need to get a real job."

White is the president of the Greater St. Louis Labor Council, one of almost 500 state and local labor councils of the AFL-CIO. He represents more than 85,000 union members from throughout the region, including teachers, first responders, public employees and gas workers, among others. He is a 1990 graduate of Ranken's refrigeration program and, like almost every graduate of the program that year, was hired by Laclede Gas (now Spire) immediately after receiving his degree.

"We were service technicians, handling gas turn ons, gas leak calls, meter changes, service calls for ovens and furnaces, and we went to fires and explosions," White says. "I started working in the City of St. Louis and when you got enough time, you could either go to north or south county. I chose north county, because that's where I lived."

White grew up in St. Louis as a member of a proud union family. His father, mother and uncles were all members of local unions. So, too, were most of his five sisters. Before Ranken, he worked as a permit worker for the same pipefitters union as his father. "I started there immediately after high school, but one of my sisters thought I should look at Ranken," says White. "I debated about pipe

fitting (plumbing), but I toured the school and liked what I saw in refrigeration, so that's what I decided to do."

At Laclede, White, like many in his family, jumped into labor activities. Within five years, he was elected shop steward and represented 800 gas workers. Rising through the ranks, he became a full-time business representative for the union in 2006. In January 2015, after a unanimous vote by council delegates, he took the helm of the St. Louis Labor Council.

He likes being the voice for working men and women, but he notes, the role of unions has changed over the years. "It used to be a lot about pay and benefits," he explains. "Now, it's more about having a voice on the job and being an advocate for workers for those issues and so much more, including workplace safety."

With a huge demand for skilled workers in the region, White says Ranken has a critical role to fill. "Yes, there are unions that have their own apprenticeship programs," he says, "but they would prefer someone come here to Ranken and then go into an apprenticeship program so that they have foundational skills such as welding and carpentry as well as a strong work ethic prior to starting in any union program."

White laughs with his former instructor,



Chris Brueggeman, while observing the newest HVACR students in action. He says proudly, "A graduate coming out of here will be able to write their own ticket. Our ranks are filled with Ranken graduates because we all know that Ranken students are job-ready from day one. I'm proud to be a Ranken graduate and to see that the mission of the college still is alive and well." **R**



ALUMNI STUDENT REFERRAL PROGRAM

Attention Ranken alums, any qualified student you refer will receive a **\$100 tuition credit** upon enrolling for their first semester at Ranken. To qualify, they must be a *new applicant and not yet applied*.

For more information:

Email: admissions@ranken.edu

Call: (314) 286-4809

Online Form: <https://ranken.edu/alumni/ways-to-participate/refer-a-student/>

Go to: [Ranken.edu](https://ranken.edu).





(L to R): Jim and Mary Moog, pictured with Steve Cartwright, retired trainer and long-time Moog Automotive employee and current Ranken Automotive Instructor, in front of Hub Moog's 1919 Buick.

Giving Back: The Moog Family

Walk around Ranken's St. Louis campus and you'll notice the new Moog Hall Automotive Training Center, which houses Ranken's acclaimed domestic and import automotive technology programs. The facility, which expanded last year, is named in honor of Hubert C. "Hub" Moog. Hub Moog played a critical role in the growth and success of his family's company, Moog Automotive, Inc. Hubert P. and S. Alva Moog, Hub's father and uncle, founded the company in St. Louis in 1919 under the name St. Louis Spring Company.

Initially the company manufactured leaf springs for the replacement market at a small plant located on Washington Avenue in midtown St. Louis. These springs – for repair of the Ford Model T and similar cars of the era – were in high demand due to the rough roads of the time. In the 1930s the company moved its operations to larger facilities in Wellston, which were much expanded and improved over the years. Under Hub Moog's guidance, during the decades of the 1950s through the 1970s, the company diversified its product lines, grew, and prospered –eventually becoming the leading supplier of steering and suspension parts for the automotive aftermarket.

Moog Automotive is credited with several engineering innovations, including designs for steering linkage components, ball joints and the patented coil spring, CarGo Coil. From the beginning, Hubert P.

and Alva Moog emphasized the importance of a quality product, and throughout the history of the Moog product line, the aim has always been to provide parts that are "problem-solvers" and are "better than the parts they replace."

Moog Automotive was sold in 1978, but Moog parts continue to be favorites among automotive services professionals. Today the Moog brand is a product line of the major automotive parts manufacturer, Federal Mogul Corporation.

Like Ranken, Hub Moog believed in hands-on training, opening the industry's first Steering and Suspension Training Center in 1970 to provide training for the company's salesmen and its customer. Moog parts have been the predominant choice of NASCAR racing teams dating back to the 1960s. Building on this legacy, Moog parts became the official steering and suspension provider for NASCAR in the United States in 2015. Two years later, that designation was added for the NASCAR Whelen Euro Series.

A short time after his death in 1988, Hubert C. Moog was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame in Dearborn, Michigan. A few years later his wife, Dorothy, and children, Donna, Tom and Jim consulted with leaders at Ranken Technical College about the possibility of a gift which would honor Hub's memory and support the family's interest in vocational education. Through their donation, Ranken

was able to renovate the city's former trolley car maintenance facility and create a dedicated building to house the college's automotive training programs. The family has also loaned to Ranken a 1919 Buick that was restored by the company's employees (on their own time) and given to Mr. Moog during the 50th anniversary of the company in 1969.

Through the family's Trio Foundation, the Moog family has also given generously to help expand our automotive facilities and we are grateful for their continued support. We are proud to showcase Hubert's car and his portrait in the lobby of Moog Hall Automotive Training Center. **R**



Hubert C. "Hub" Moog

Upcoming Events:

March 2020

- 21 - St. Louis Open House/Show & Shine Car Show
- 24 - Perryville Open House

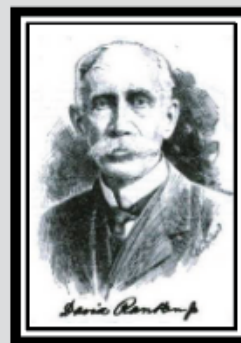
April 2020

- 2 - Perryville Job Fair (IT only)
- 4 - Wentzville Open House/Show & Shine Car Show
- 16 - St. Louis Job Fair
- 23 - Wentzville Job Fair
- 23 - Scholarship Luncheon

May 2020

- 9 - Commencement & Golden Graduate Ceremony

Join The David Ranken, Jr. Legacy Society



*Recognizing charitable estate
gifts (bequests, IRA contributions,
trusts, gifts of insurance) benefitting
Ranken Technical College.*

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