

Automotive Collision Engineering Program Goes National *Work-based Internships Launching in Four States*

This fall, Ranken's proven model of integrated work-based internships debuts across the country in an innovative program funded by St. Louis-based Enterprise Holdings' philanthropic arm, the Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation. Called the Automotive Collision Engineering (ACE) Pilot Program, the curriculum is being offered at Ranken Technical College in St. Louis; College of Lake County in Grayslake, IL; Contra Costa College in San Pablo, CA; and Texas State Technical College in Waco, TX.

Enterprise has a long-standing relationship with Ranken, supporting every program within the Automotive Division, including collision repair and fleet management, and operating a call center in collaboration with Ranken. The school's Taylor Automotive Center in Wentzville, MO, is named in honor of the Taylor family, which owns Enterprise, for their generous support of Ranken.

The national program is specifically designed to boost the number of ACE specialists throughout the country. Accord-

several years ago and began searching for ways to encourage students to consider a career in automotive collision repair.

"The automobile has changed dramatically in recent years," says Helterbrand. "As vehicles continue to grow in complexity, so do the repair processes required of technicians. The automotive technician of the future will be much more like an engineer."

Ranken's ACE program already is nationally recognized. In 2019, it was certified as a Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) by the U.S. Department of Labor. The designation enables students to receive a National Occupational Credential while earning an associate degree in automotive collision repair from Ranken. The program also is accredited by the Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Education Foundation in four areas of auto body repair – non-structural, structural, refinishing and mechanical/electrical.

Nationwide, several body shops as well as the Ford Certified Collision Network have signed up to serve as internship sites for the ACE program. Funding from Enterprise goes toward program costs, such as tools and curriculum development as well as scholarships. In addition, Enterprise has launched an industry-first digital advertising campaign to raise awareness of the ACE career path. The goal is to recruit and train 160+ students over the pilot phase of the program, with the model being replicated at numerous other colleges over time.

Helterbrand, a member of Ranken's faculty for 26 years, says, "Ranken could be the oldest collision repair school west of the Mississippi because we've offered automotive classes since the 1920s. Being a collision engineer is an ongoing process – as the cars change so do the repair procedures – and the program creates lifelong learners in this field."

More information is available at www.beacollisionengineer.com. **R**



Ranken students in the ACE program.

"As the world's largest car rental provider and an industry leader in mobility and technology, we have a huge stake in the health of the automotive repair industry and are committed to doing our part to invest in its success," says Mary Mahoney, vice president, Insurance replacement division at Enterprise Holdings. "We're encouraging other industry leaders to join us in addressing the industry shortage and shaping the future of automotive repair."

ing to the U.S. Labor Department and TechForce Foundation, there is a critical shortage of ACE specialists entering the career pipeline. TechForce estimates that over the next four years, more than 80,000 new collision technicians will be needed in the United States.

John Helterbrand, the national program manager for the new Automotive Collision Engineering Program, says Enterprise identified a looming workforce shortage

Ranken West:

The Diesel Technology program at Ranken West-Wentzville has moved to a fully integrated internship model for day and evening students. Ten companies are now participating, including: A & A Lumber, Clarke Power Service, CSTK, Ennis Implement, Fry Wagner, Hogan Trucking, K & B Truck Repair, Peterbilt, Rush Trucking and Witte Bros. Exchange.

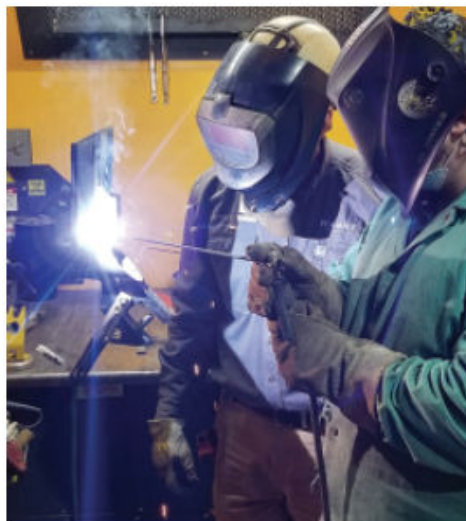


Ranken Wentzville's Diesel Technology chair Shawn Ray (right) instructs student Zackery Koester-Farhner while on-site at Clarke Power Services, one of 10 new internship locations for the program.

At Ranken West's Troy location, the focus now is on curriculum development for the new Agriculture Engineering Technology Program. The two-year associate degree program will combine electric, mechanical and hydraulics training to grow and maintain aquaponic crops such as lettuce and fish. An exciting part of the planned curriculum is the addition of digital agriculture technology training, which incorporates the operation of drone technology and data analysis. Ranken is partnering with the Lincoln County School District and will soon deliver large hands-on, interactive training boards to the district to give high school students an early start on their agriculture technology training. In addition to aquaponics, the Troy location will offer a Carpentry and Building Technology program as an extension of the high school's construction trade program. The Advanced Precision Machining program currently at Wentzville also will relocate to the Troy facility. **R**

Perryville:

Integrated work-based internships within Ranken Perryville's Industrial Engineering and Technology program and the Fabrication and Welding program are expanding. To date, 14 companies are involved, with students rotating between classroom curriculum and onsite, paid internships.



Teacher John Otte and one of his welding students.

Demand also remains high for Ranken Perryville's fully onsite Diesel Technology program at Gilster-Mary Lee and Rollet Brothers Trucking, with Ranken now adding its first evening diesel program and hiring a third instructor. **R**



At TG Missouri, Industrial Engineering student Amber Teater (right) reviews a work task under the watchful eye of IET instructor Rodney Eftink. TG Missouri is one of several local companies participating in Ranken's internship program.



Students in Ranken-Perryville's Fabrication and Welding Program alternate between classroom work and onsite paid internships with area employers.



Dave Munie with a student in the Plumbing and Pipefitting Technology class. (2018)

Plumbing and Pipefitting Technology

What's one of the oldest accredited career paths at Ranken? Plumbing and Pipefitting Technology. The program was among the first five offered when Ranken opened its doors in September 1909. From that initial enrollment of eight plumbing students, the program has grown and today remains one of the most popular career paths at Ranken.

"Demand for our students is incredibly high," says David Munie, chairman of the Plumbing Department, a master plumber, a journeyman, and a 23-year member and then instructor for the Plumber and Pipefitters Local 101 in Belleville, IL. "Anyone who wants a job is working."

Munie is no stranger to the plumbing program and comes from a long line of plumbers and pipefitters in his family. He graduated from Ranken's plumbing program in 1990; his father also graduated from the program in 1965. "My grandfather, his brother, and my great uncle are pipefitters by trade and my brother also is a plumber," he says. "While a member of Local 101, I taught for the union in the evenings. Five years ago, I decided to come to Ranken to teach students wanting to enter the trade."

The program is a nine-month certificate day course, with a two-year option for evening classes. A key attribute is hands-on training, first in the classroom and then in the pipefitting shop or in Ranken's on-site 43-bathroom

construction tower, where students can rough in plumbing for showers, toilets, sinks, drainage systems as well as electric, gas and tankless water heaters. They use everything from cast iron to PVC, PEX and copper. Students also help build two houses in the neighborhood annually through Ranken's Community Development Corporation. "City inspectors come out to approve our permits and it's got to be correct," stresses Munie.

The program currently has 100+ students enrolled, taught by three full-time instructors and eight part-time instructors. Among the latest equipment used at Ranken are poly-butt fusion machines for water and gas installation, cordless pipe threaders and Rigid ProPress machines that can replace traditional soldering techniques – all advancements that keep students at the leading edge of the industry.

Students graduating from the program not only leave with their plumbing certificate, they also will have completed a 30-hour OSHA safety certification course, a definite plus for hiring companies and unions, and obtain Trac-Pipe Certification in class. Students also leave with a full tool box with about 50 tools so that they are workforce-ready. An additional certification for backflow testing is available to those who have gone on to work in the trade for several years post-graduation.

Starting plumbers can make up to \$40,000 a year plus benefits. Within five years, a journeyman can earn \$50,000-\$80,000 annually. "Think about that," Munie says. "Nine months in our program can lead to a well-paid career. Demand for these jobs is anticipated to grow by as much as 22 percent over the next 10 years." **R**



Andre Hickman (Plumbing, 2020) is one of the first 13 accepted into a new diversity and mentorship program called CHAMPIONS, started by Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 562, the Mechanical Contractors Association of Eastern Missouri (MCA-EMO), and the Plumbing Industry Council (PIC). Says Hickman, "Graduating from Ranken was a huge accomplishment for me. My instructors gave me the perfect advice and pushed me to be the best that I can be."



Madeline McVey (Plumbing, 2018) had six job offers before selecting Bob Raeker Plumbing Company, Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 562 for the next stage in her career. McVey, who also placed third in the 2018 SkillsUSA District Championships for plumbing, says, "Dave Munie gave me so much confidence in myself and so much knowledge of the trade. I consider him a mentor and someone I can come to for anything in the trade."



The Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant near Athens, Ala.

Alumni At Work

At the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant near Athens, Ala., Dustin Snyder (ESDT, 2014) is in the middle of almost all of the engineering design processes, serving as Design Lead and estimator for a wide range of projects ongoing at the nation's second largest nuclear power plant.



Dustin Snyder

Snyder is one of many Ranken graduates who work for Sargent & Lundy, an international power and energy company based out of Chicago that provides services to more than 900 power plants around the globe, including for the Tennessee Valley Authority's three nuclear facilities in the south. Snyder hit the ground running in S&L's Nuclear Power Group, thanks to a strong foundation developed in Ranken's Electrical Systems Design Technology (ESDT) program.

"The three things that had the biggest impact on my success were the quality of instructors at Ranken, the curriculum being tailored to employers' needs, and the fact that Ranken employs the latest and greatest technology," Snyder says.

He took advantage of Ranken's on-site microenterprise program and worked for bioMérieux while completing his degree requirements for the two-year associate degree program. After finding out about Sargent & Lundy at one of Ranken's job fairs, Snyder set a goal to work for their nuclear power group in their Chattanooga office. He succeeded in getting an interview and had his "dream job" offered to him just before he graduated.

"Once I was there for a year, I was placed on a team doing work for a Canadian client and was assigned my first solo project. It was a massive learning opportunity and I loved the challenge and fast pace," he says. He subsequently was promoted and transferred to Alabama, where he now estimates all of the physical design work under way at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant and serves as one of the on-site liaisons for Sargent & Lundy. In recognition of his skills and dedication, Snyder was one of two finalists for the national Up and Coming Under 30 Award at the 2020 Electric Power Expo.

He remains a huge fan of Ranken, returning to the campus to give student presentations and recruiting other graduates to Sargent & Lundy. Last August, Daniel Brostron (ESDT, 2020), followed Snyder into S & L's Nuclear Power Group at Browns Ferry, working as a Drafter and incorporating design engineering changes into AutoCAD drawings.

"Ranken's training helped a lot with preparing me for my new job," says Brostron. "Knowledge about electrical installation from shop class is helpful for visualizing plans and knowledge about electrical circuit design from the lab classes has helped me when looking at wiring diagrams. Of course, having professional training in AutoCAD as well as other software and industry practices gave me a great base to build upon."

Because of that firm hands-on foundation, Sargent & Lundy has been a long-time recruiter of Ranken graduates for all three of its business groups (Nuclear, Fossil and Transmission & Substation). "What I found in Ranken students is that they were able to come in on



Daniel Brostron

the first day of employment and jump right in with minimal supervision," says S & L's Randy Cook, Senior Manager & Design Manager for the Nuclear Power Group. "Their education and software experience allowed them to understand the concept that we were looking for while allowing them to build on their individual career success paths."

Snyder is now pursuing his bachelor's degree in applied management online through Ranken to further his skills. "Attending Ranken," he says, "was one of the most important decisions I've made in my life." **R**

Spotlight on: The Strippgen Education Foundation

Outside of the construction classroom at Ranken Technical College is a plaque dedicated to Paul E. Strippgen, Jr. – a man, it states, who dedicated his life “to building; including the next generation of workforce.”

hands-on training was a national model for training skilled workers.”

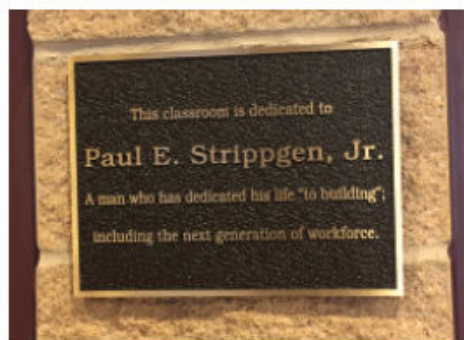
With the creation of the Strippgen Education Foundation, which is dedicated to supporting Missouri students interested in the skilled building, mechanical, and aviation professions, Strippgen established a scholarship award at Ranken. He was delighted to meet the first recipients of the scholarships in 2015 before passing away in late 2016 at the age of 93. “He truly was overwhelmed with meeting those students in person,” says Diane. “He really wanted to give back in some way and this was a perfect opportunity for him.”



Paul E. Strippgen, Jr with students at the Dedication in 2015.

Strippgen was a pilot and captain in the U.S. Air Force, a World War II veteran, and a prisoner of war before coming back to St. Louis and eventually taking over the family's business, Strippgen Woodworking in Affton. He was proud to be a lifelong carpenter, not only creating custom cabinetry, but also building his own home in Webster Groves, MO.

As he grew older, Strippgen decided to leave a legacy by establishing a foundation to help others since he had no children of his own, says his niece Diane Eyink. After touring several organizations, Diane's husband, Jerry, took Strippgen to Ranken. “There was an instant connection when he saw the carpentry shop and learned about the work ethic instilled in the students there,” says Jerry. “He visited the college often to peek into the carpentry classrooms and to talk with (Ranken CEO) Stan Shoun, a fellow veteran and aviator. We both felt that Ranken's



A plaque outside the construction classroom honoring Paul E Strippgen, Jr.

Scholarships have been awarded annually since Strippgen's passing. “I think what appealed to him about Ranken is that he stood where these kids stood, learned a trade, and realized the importance of a strong work ethic,” adds Diane. “He was very proud to be associated with Ranken.” **R**

Bank of America Helps Fund Dual Enrollment Expansion

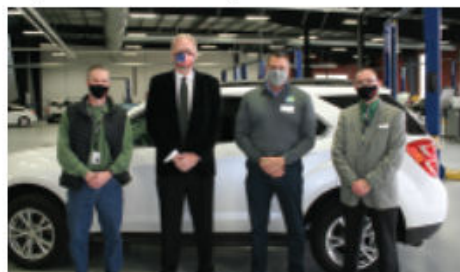


Crystal Herron, Ranken's VP for Diversity and Student Success, and Don Pohl, President, accept the BoA Neighborhood Builders grant award.

Ranken is expanding its Early College Initiative, thanks to a generous \$200,000 grant from Bank of America's Neighborhood Builders Program. The initiative, a dual-enrollment program for high school students, has been in place in the greater St. Louis area but is expanding to Ranken-West in Troy, MO. Nationwide, Bank of America has invested more than \$260 million through their community program. The institution also has been a long-time supporter of Ranken, funding student scholarships and equipment upgrades, including the recent installation of two Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations at the St. Louis campus. **R**

A New Car!

In December, the St. Louis Auto Dealers Association (SLADA) generously presented a Chevy Equinox to Ranken's Automotive Department for use by students. **R**



Pictured with Ranken Board of Trustees member Phil Evans and President Don Pohl are George "Skip" Weber IV, SLADA President, and Doug Smith from the Missouri Automobile Dealers Association/St. Louis Automobile Dealers Association.



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