RANKEN
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

RANKENREVIEW

Summer 2021

Architectural rendering of the new Workforce Development Center-Central Missouri in Ashland, Mo.

Expanding Our Mission

Ranken, Community Leaders Announce New Location in Mid-Missouri

Construction has begun on Ranken Technical College's newest location in Ashland, Mo. The facility, a partnership between Ranken, the Southern Boone County R-1 School District, the City of Ashland, and the Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission, will be Ranken's fifth educational site in Missouri.

"It's part of our continued efforts to bring education, community and business partners together to meet the growing demand for skilled workers," said Ranken President Don Pohl.

The new college will be called the Workforce Development Center-Central Missouri and will offer courses available to both high school students and adults. A groundbreaking on the five-acre campus, located east of Highway 63, was held in April. The educational facility is anticipated to cost $8.65 million. The U.S. Department of Commerce approved a $4.5 million Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant for the project and the State of Missouri contributed an additional $1.5 million in funding. Local and regional funding is under way to cover the rest of the costs related to site development, construction of the facility, and equipment.

Dennis Alvord, Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, said that when the facility opens, "This will produce a highly skilled and qualified labor force for the six-county area, creating a more resilient regional economy."

The Curriculum

Once construction is complete, students are anticipated to enroll for classes beginning in January 2023. Ranken's curriculum and career pathways at the facility will focus on meeting the demands of industry.

"This project is another great example of what we can accomplish when education, government, and the private sector work together, and we look forward to the opportunities it will bring to our students and surrounding communities," noted Missouri Governor Mike Parson.

In addition to Ashland, Ranken has Missouri locations in St. Louis, Perryville, Wentzville, and Troy.

Ashland groundbreaking ceremony. *Photo courtesy of Alex Naughton, Columbia Missourian*

Ranken St. Louis

Two new microenterprises are in the Robert W. Plaster Free Enterprise Center. Microenterprises are on-site manufacturing or assembly operations where students earn while learning skills.

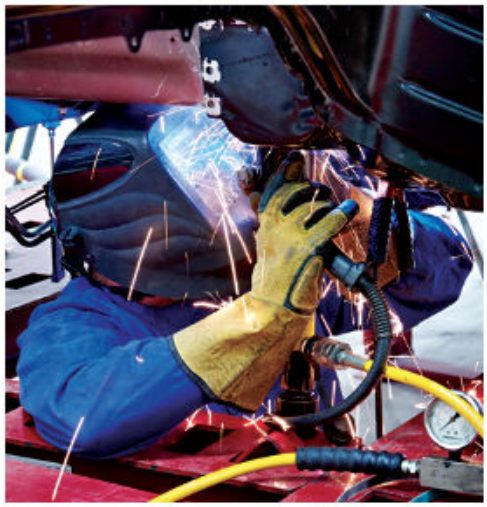
Logika Systems started setting up operations at Ranken in January with plans to have students start the manufacturing of optical sensors, cameras, and machine vision systems sometime this fall. This summer,

Evergreen Mobile Power also started up operations, with students assembling its mobile propane power generators called the Juice Box.

Evergreen's Juice Box, a mobile propane power generator, will be assembled at Ranken as part of the College's microenterprise program.

Ranken Southeast

Thanks to the efforts of the Perry County Economic Development Authority (PCEDA) and local community and business leaders in Perryville, the State of Missouri has allocated $5 million to build a new home for Ranken Southeast in Perryville. The current location, which opened in 2017, is in space donated by TG Missouri Corporation. "We are excited to move the technical workforce center to the next level, said Scott Sattler, PCEDA Executive Director. "The new facility will be life-changing for our future workforce and allows the programs in Perryville to expand to support the technical needs for regional employers." Programs offered in Perryville include Diesel Technology, Industrial Engineering Technology, Information Technology, and Fabrication & Welding.



Welding program in Perryville.

Ranken West

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded Ranken a three-year, $500,000 grant to help fund the Agriculture Engineering Technology (Ag-Tech) degree program to be offered at Ranken West's Troy, Mo. facility.

The grant will bridge the career pipeline from agriculture coursework taught in the Lincoln County R-III School District to Ranken's Ag-Tech degree program that begins when the Troy facility opens in 2022. Among other items, the grant funds a full-time Ag-Tech instructor who will help students apply what they learn at an on-site, commercially operational Aquaponics Lab that will serve as a microenterprise for students to get paid while completing coursework for their degree.

Ranken also received more than $240,000 from corporate and individual donors to help fund the Ranken West Endowed Scholarship Fund for Troy and Wentzville. Several corporations made significant contributions and are being honored with named areas:

Troy: Elite Tool; Landesign; Silver Fin Solutions; CMS Homes; Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Missouri; Bank of Old Monroe; and Peoples Bank and Trust.

Wentzville: Witte Bros; Tri Tech Automation; Lou Fusz Automotive Network.

If you would like to help fund student scholarships or programs at Ranken, please contact Brien McCarthy, Director of Major Gifts, at bpmccarthy@ranken.edu.

Ranken West Troy construction under way.

Ranken Students in the Advanced Precision Machining Technology program are in high demand.

Career Paths: Advanced Precision Machining Technology

Did you know? Missouri ranks #18 in the United States in the demand for machinists, according to the on-line job platform Zippia. That's why Ranken's Advanced Precision Machining Technology (APMT) program is in high demand!

APMT is a five-semester apprenticeship program certified by the National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS), with students rotating between classwork at Ranken and on-site paid internships with industry partners. The program is available in St. Louis and Wentzville (before it moves to Troy in 2022). Students specialize in either advanced machining or Mazatrol programming and earn an associate degree and/or multiple NIMS certifications. Certifications that can be earned include: Lathe between Centers Lathe Level 1; Lathe Chucking Level 1; CNC Mills Level I; and NC3 Metrology Certification. New to the curriculum this year is training on the 5-Axis MasterCAM machining and drilling system.

"Our students learn how to use manual mills and lathes as well as how to create and interpret Electronic Industries Association (EIA) programs and codes (G-codes) on computer numerical control (CNC) machines as well as learn how to assemble tools, tool holders, and material and work-holding devices," said J.C. Owens, APMT program chair and instructor. "They also have the opportunity to learn Computer-Aided Design and Manufacturing (CAD/CAM) procedures."

Ranken has many companies involved in the apprenticeship program. Students also can work in one of Ranken's manufacturing and machining microenterprises based in the Robert W. Plaster Free Enterprise Center on the St. Louis campus. "Many of our students start in our microenterprises prior to acquiring an outside apprenticeship," said Shannon Brueggemann, Dean of Academic Affairs. "This gives them the opportunity to improve their skills before going to train and work off-site with an industry partner."

APMT alum Tyler Milek graduated cum laude in May 2020 and works for The Gund Company in St. Louis as a machinist. Gund is one of the largest manufacturers and fabricators of thermoset composite materials and engineered material solutions. "Tyler is a valued employee," said Josh D'Atri, Value Stream Manager for The Gund Company. "He is capable of working in many areas of the shop and has a lot of potential for future growth within our organization."

Milek also mentors a high school robotics team and wants to foster and encourage future machinists. "I invested in a CNC router and mill for the robotics team," he said. "I can now teach middle and high school students about machining."

Adds Owens, "We have tremendous interest in our graduates with the largest sectors being the aerospace and transportation industries. Ten percent of Missouri's total workforce is employed in manufacturing and companies are always looking for well-trained talent."

Jones Recognized Among "Most Influential Women"

Shelly Jones, Ranken's Industry Relationship Coordinator, has been recognized as one of 2021's Most Influential Women by the Women's Industry Network (WIN). The national organization supports and enhances the role of women in the collision repair industry through education, advancement and networking.

Jones is among 10 women this year receiving the honor, which was established in 1999 to recognize women who have made a leadership impact on the collision repair industry. Honorees were celebrated at WIN's virtual 2021 Annual Conference in May. As the college's Industry Relationship Coordinator, Jones guides and links students to businesses for internships and jobs. She also actively searches to expand the network of integrated work-based industry participants.

"This is a testament to the caliber of women in a wide variety of roles who are extreme shining examples of opportunities in the collision industry," said Kathy Mello, chair of WIN's MIW committee.

Ranken's Industry Relationship Coordinator, Shelly Jones

Ranken architecture graduate Nour Fuqa (right) works at HT Design, LLC in St. Louis.

Alumni at Work: Nour Fuqa

Nour Fuqa's career is on an upward trajectory. An architectural assistant for HT Design, LLC in St. Louis, Fuqa graduated magna cum laude from Ranken Technical College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Architecture in 2019. Now she's been awarded a Director's Scholarship from Washington University to pursue her master's degree in architecture. She received the scholarship based upon the strength of her academic record and portfolio.

I'm very excited for this step in my life," said Nour. "Through the studio classes, Ranken prepared me to expedite projects phases from concept design through construction documentation. My training also prepared me for the graphic and modeling software used in the field."

Nour initially started her collegiate journey in Palestine, where she was in the Bachelor of Architectural Engineering program at Birzeit University. When she moved with her family to the United States in 2016, she wanted to continue in the same major. "Ranken was recommended by a friend who is a Ranken alumna," she said. "Besides being a good program, the hire rate for graduation is extremely high from Ranken."

One of her favorite instructors at Ranken was Elizabeth Proost, who said, "Nour was an introspective student who exhibited a true desire to produce quality design. She always challenged herself to thoroughly investigate the design prompt, was open to suggestions, and offered a refreshing approach to problem solving."

Kelley Raftery, Chair of the Architecture Department, agrees. "Nour always exhibited a strong interest in architecture and excelled with her design projects," she said. "She has a very artistic nature which reflects in her work."

That dedication and skill caught the attention of HT Design, LLC, where she has worked for the past year and a half since graduation. "Miss Fuqa has proven to be exceptionally creative and has the confidence to articulate design vision to our clients," said Duane Thompson, Principal at HT Design, LLC. "She has shown great capacity for putting together construction drawing sets including researching code standards and zoning requirements. She also co-led efforts in our office as we transitioned to new drafting software. I am excited to see her continue to sharpen her skill set as a young up and coming designer."

Nour Fuqa

Among Nour's many great memories while at Ranken was participating in Portfolio Day, where she had the chance to connect and network with professionals in the field. While here, she also was a student worker in the Student Success Center, which provides academic support services and resources to Ranken students as well as parents, faculty, and staff.

Want to learn more about Ranken's Architecture program? Visit ranken.edu/programs/architecture.

Donor Spotlights:

The Pettus Foundation Establishes Another New Scholarship

The Trustees of the Pettus Foundation are in the process of creating a new opportunity for financial assistance, the **James T. Pettus** Scholarship at Ranken Technical College. Mr. Pettus was director of both the International Shoe company and the Guarantee Trust Company, and established the foundation which bears his name. His son James T. Pettus, Jr., a World War II veteran and U.S. diplomat, continued the family's philanthropic legacy.

The Pettus Foundation has generously supported Ranken for nearly two decades, providing several scholarship opportunities to students with financial need across many degree programs. Mr. Pettus' original wish was *"to enable people who might not have opportunities to have opportunities,"* thus the Pettus Foundation prioritizes programs which create self-reliance, independence, and citizen productivity.

Previous Scholarship winners who benefited from the generosity of the Pettus Foundation include: Stephon Foster, Solomon Jackson, Donald Donelson, and Tiffany Grimes.

The Gene Haas Foundation

Students pursuing an associate degree or certification in Advanced Precision Machining Technology will have additional opportunities to obtain scholarships to offset the costs of tuition, books, and tools, thanks to another generous donation from the Gene Haas Foundation.

The Foundation, a long-time supporter of Ranken, recently donated $30,000 to fund ongoing scholarships. It has provided more than $100,000 in scholarship funds to the College since 2006. The funds also can be used by students to fund the credentialing process through the National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS), a leading industry certification institution.

The Gene Haas Foundation was established 11 years ago by Gene Haas, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Haas Automation, Inc., the largest machine tool builder in the United States and one of the largest manufacturers of CNC machines worldwide. The Foundation, based in California, supports manufacturing training programs throughout North America and elsewhere through scholarships, sponsorship of CNC competitions, and donations to CNC training programs, including at Ranken.

Nick Hufker, who graduated magna cum laude from the Precision Machining Program this past May, was a Gene Haas scholarship recipient in 2020. "I have been financially paying for my college education and this will be of great help in paying for some of my expenses," he wrote to the Scholarship Committee. "I respect and value highly the work you do to keep such an amazing Foundation available for newcomers in the machining industry."

Nick Hufker, a Gene Haas scholarship recipient in 2020 now works at R&S Machining in St. Louis.

Hufker now works at R&S Machining in St. Louis. The company manufactures aerospace components.

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Upcoming Events:

September 2021

Friday, September 3- Employer Breakfast (St. Louis location)
Friday, September 10- Employer Breakfast (Perryville location)
Friday, September 17- Employer Breakfast (Wentzville location)

October 2021

Thursday, October 7- Job Fair (Perryville location- IT only)
Thursday, October 14- Job Fair (St. Louis location)
Tuesday, October 19- Open House (Perryville location)
Saturday, October 23- Open House (St. Louis location)

November 2021

Thursday, November 4- Job Fair (Wentzville location)
Friday, November 5- Employer Breakfast (St. Louis location)
Saturday, November 6- Open House (Wentzville location)
Friday, November 19- Employer Breakfast (Perryville location)

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.

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