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# Students offered fab look at expo

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HARTFORD — No need to tell students from the machine tool shop of Emmett O'Brien Technical High School in Ansonia that manufacturing is alive and well in the state.

Many, like juniors Kurt Anderson of Shelton and Joanna Fifer of Ansonia, already have summer internships lined up at Sikorsky Aircraft.

Yet a morning spent watching a Connecticut-shaped key-chain manufactured from design to finish in the cavernous Connecticut Expo Center gave them and some 3,000 other students a close-up look at some of the state's latest high-tech equipment in action.

"Manufacturing Your Future" is the second such Expo put together by the Connecticut Business & Industry Council. It ran from Tuesday through Thursday.

The idea is to introduce middle- and high-school students to careers in manufacturing and to let them know that, despite outsourcing and the high cost of doing business, there are still opportunities for good-paying manufacturing jobs in the state.

"This is not your grandfather's manufacturing firm," shouted Nancy Andrews, a CBIA spokeswoman, over the din of what was a "virtual" manufacturing floor.

Dirty, grimy facilities have been replaced with sterile, computer-rich sites where the machines are faster, the computers smarter.

Companies from around the state trucked in heavy manufacturing equipment, precision lasers and computers to the Expo to demonstrate how products are designed, built, shaped and finished.

► Please see EXPO on D4

# Expo demonstrates manufacturing jobs

Continued from D1

It takes a lot of science to make metal look so good, Wayne Sumple, with the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, told students. According to Sumple, there are some 5,000 manufacturing companies in the state employing about 200,000 people. The average annual salary is said to be \$66,000.

In addition to the demonstration, the students heard from representatives of Electric Boat in Groton about summer internship opportunities there.

They saw Hamilton Sundstrand space suits, flight simulators and hybrid cars with electric parts built by Electro Energy Inc. in Danbury. They also saw winners in a recent state robotics competition square off in a demonstration.

Other booths gave them information about careers and higher education opportunities in the biotechnology, engineering and aerospace fields.

Thursday, the Expo showcased products designed by stu-

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dents from Platt Tech in Milford, Norwich Tech and Kaynor Tech of Waterbury. Platt won first place in the contest for creating a mounting for an LCD projector.

The team, which included students Jennifer Rinko, Lisa Arroyo, Ian Jackson and Brittanie Samuels, won a \$2,000 scholarship to share for college and the business card of Rob Simmons, a former congressman and the state's first business advocate. Simmons, who was a judge, deemed the product very cool and quite marketable. The teacher who oversaw the Platt project was Dave Tuttle.

Other attendees included students from Bullard Havens in Bridgeport, Bunnell High School in Stratford, Derby and Oxford high schools and Read Middle School in Bridgeport.