

Teachers to learn about manufacturing

By Harlan Levy

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Seven Connecticut high school and college teachers are spending part of their summer working at various state manufacturing companies to learn about technological advancements in the industry. They'll pass those lessons on to their students in the fall.

Each participating teacher will spend 160 hours in a manufacturing facility. After their on-the-job training is complete, the teachers will develop a work-based project for their students to demonstrate how classroom learning is applied on the job, as well as to build skills needed by manufacturers who have had problems finding adequate workers.

The teachers receive a \$4,000 stipend, which pays for their time spent learning in the workplace and implementing the curriculum project in their schools.

The companies involved include ABB Inc. in Windsor, Habco Inc. in Glastonbury, and Branson Ultrasonics Corp. in Danbury.

The Connecticut Business & Industry Association is administering the summer "externship" program, now in its sixth year, on behalf of the Connecticut Community

Colleges' College of Technology Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing, which is funded by the National Science Foundation.

"We are grateful to the manufacturing companies for giving teachers the opportunity to learn about the new technologies and skills necessary in today's workforce," said Karen Wosczyzna-Birch, the center's director. "The teachers will use this knowledge to help motivate and engage their students to better prepare them for future success."

Externs include Raymond Frost of Somers, an engineering teacher at Rockville High School, who will work on CNC machining at Habco Inc. from July 7 to Aug. 4, and Haoyu Wang of Farmington, a manufacturing and robotics professor at Central Connecticut State University, who will spend July 29 to Aug. 27 learning about robotics at ABB Inc. in Windsor.

"The program has been very successful over the years, showing teachers real-world manufacturing and engineering challenges and the exciting career opportunities available to their students," CBIA Education Foundation Executive Director Judith Resnick said.