

# BUSINESS

## MAGAZINE



Pennsylvania  
College of  
Technology

PENNSTATE



College Inspires  
Work-Force Growth / Page 12

ING-BLU

Sparks fly when business partnerships ignite innovation at Pennsylvania College of Technology. Welding and fabrication engineering technology — one of many programs offered by the college's School of Industrial and Engineering Technologies — operates from the Avco-Lycoming Metal Trades Center. The center, named decades ago in honor of the company known today as Textron Lycoming, was completely overhauled in 2010 to meet industry needs, including those of Pennsylvania's emerging natural gas industry.

## Pennsylvania College of Technology

PENNSTATE



# College Inspires Work-Force Growth

It's time to make sparks fly.

New ideas ignite growth. To escape a crippling recession and jump-start the engines of industry, the United States must educate and inspire the work force now.

Fortunately, one of the nation's premier technology colleges already has boots on the ground across the Commonwealth — in the form of expertise and training that delivers quality results for industry.

Pennsylvania College of Technology has a unique history of serving work-force needs. In addition to a national reputation for applied-technology baccalaureate and associate degrees, Penn College provides a solid program of outreach to industry through its Workforce Development & Continuing Education unit.

"Industry connections are the heart of the institution," states President Davie Jane Gilmour, Ph.D. "In order for our graduates to be successful throughout their lives, we must do everything we can to encourage a vibrant Pennsylvania work force."

Penn College ranks among the top public colleges in the north, according to "America's Best Colleges," and is one of the nation's top 100 associate degree producers, according to *Community College Weekly*. Programs of study offer opportunities in more than 100 career fields.

Both graduates and employers recognize the advantages of a Penn College education. Business and industry connections, small classes, access to the latest technology and faculty with relevant work experience contribute to strong graduate placement rates, which reached 95 percent in recent years.

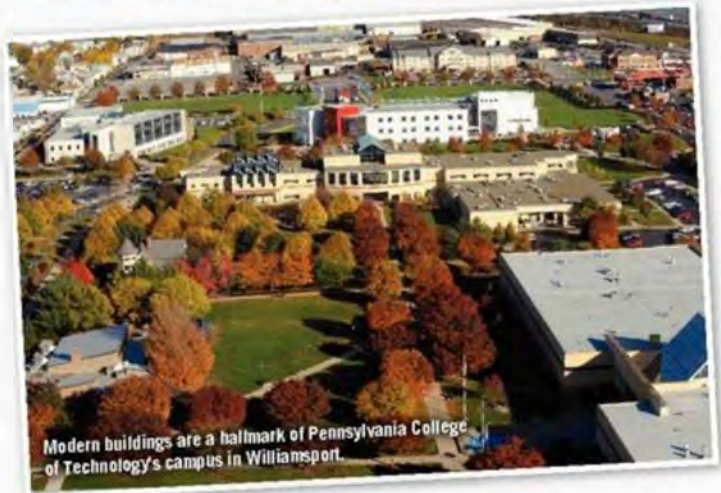
Also among its notable industry partnerships are the Marcellus Shale Education & Training Center (MSETC) and Plastics Innovation & Resource Center (PIRC). These centers deliver results for industry while providing direct ties to Penn College's academic centers of excellence.

MSETC, a partnership with Penn State Extension, provides resources and training for the natural gas industry in Pennsylvania and surrounding states. It developed the state's first work-force needs assessment and initiated industry-specific training to prepare Pennsylvanians to compete for jobs in the Marcellus shale play; the center now has expanded training to include all forms of natural gas exploration.

### Emerging Industry Needs

A study of work-force needs to support Marcellus Shale development in Pennsylvania through 2014 was released last year. It estimates up to 30,000 jobs — including as many as 15,000 new positions — are needed to keep pace with industry growth.

The study anticipates growth rates will be highest in southwestern Pennsylvania, which is developing a gas-processing infrastructure, and in the northwest. Moderate growth is forecast in the northeast, which saw significant expansion in recent years.



Modern buildings are a hallmark of Pennsylvania College of Technology's campus in Williamsport.

"Penn College is committed to providing relevant education and training that will allow Pennsylvania citizens to drive the future of the emerging natural gas industry here," Dr. Gilmour says.

In addition to assessing needs and preparing entry-level workers, Penn College provides the industry with access to student interns and graduates who can excel in advanced positions in energy-related industries. These include engineering technologies (civil, electronics/computer, manufacturing, and welding/fabrication), construction management, heavy equipment, diesel, drafting, power generation, paralegal and other specialties.

Another growing Pennsylvania industry heavily supported by Penn College is plastics.

PIRC is one of the nation's top centers for plastics research, development and education related to injection molding, blow molding, extrusion, rotational molding and thermoforming.

Penn College is one of five colleges in the nation offering plastics degree programs accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. It recently revised its academic curriculum to include the nation's first thermoforming and rotomolding courses of study.

Through PIRC, industry partners have access to training on site and in campus facilities that feature \$2-million worth of industry-standard equipment. Global Standards for Plastics Certification and other recognized certifications in injection molding, extrusion, rotational molding and thermoforming are offered through PIRC.

"I have seen direct benefits to businesses," says Roger C. Kipp, vice president of Engineering at McClarin Plastics Inc. "The college is able to provide a complete package of customized, confidential services at an affordable price. It can do needs analysis, develop training plans and show you how to increase profits through efficient use of technology."

#### Filling a Need

Developing ideas and training workers without hindering day-to-day operations is an important need for Penn College's industry clients.

According to Ian Strachan, a plastics industry technical and management consultant, "Companies need cost-effective ways to



Penn College's automated manufacturing program features a Haas Technical Education Center with computer numerical control (CNC) machine tools provided by industry leader, Haas Automation Inc. Here, student Britni M. Fennell works on a Haas vertical machining center.



A welding technology student works in Penn College's newly renovated Metal Trades Center.

develop new ideas and train employees in new technologies. Penn College offers access to incredible facilities, equipment and technical expertise. Companies can explore new projects, materials and technologies without taking their own equipment and employees off the line."

With its wide range of offerings — from engineering technologies to business and information technologies to hospitality and health care — it comes as no surprise that Penn College also manages WEDnetPA, the state's largest guaranteed free worker training program. Funded through the Department of Community and Economic Development, it provides companies with access to free basic skills and information technology training for workers at 32 college and university locations across the state, including Penn College, which is centrally located in Williamsport. ★

More industry client information is available online at [www.pct.edu/busind](http://www.pct.edu/busind) or by calling 570/327-4775 or emailing [dcool@pct.edu](mailto:dcool@pct.edu).



Marcellus Shale Education & Training Center provides resources and training for the natural gas industry.



Plastics industry representatives regularly visit Penn College's Plastics Innovation and Resource Center for world-class seminars and hands-on workshops.



#### Fast Facts

Pennsylvania College of Technology became an affiliate of The Pennsylvania State University in 1989, after establishing a national reputation for education supporting work-force development, first as Williamsport Technical Institute (1941) and later as Williamsport Area Community College (1965). Penn College is a special mission affiliate of Penn State, committed to applied technology education.

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