

WHO HAS VISITED US RECENTLY?

- ◆ Monroe County Community College
- ◆ Portland Community College
- ◆ California University of Pennsylvania
- ◆ Ford Motor Company Fund
- ◆ Educational Development Center, Inc.

DID YOU KNOW?

The NCME's Manufacturing Education Resource Center (MERC) recently conducted a feedback survey with its registered users asking them how they use the site and their overall opinions of the site. Over half the respondents found MERC to very helpful or exceptionally helpful, and 100% of those responding would recommend MERC to other manufacturing educators/industry professionals. Perhaps the most telling feedback MERC received about its usefulness and effectiveness concerned its database searches. More than half of the respondents stated that they now prefer using MERC over Google to search manufacturing related materials. MERC's more focused searches save educators valuable time and energy. Visit [www.merconline.net](http://www.merconline.net) today!

## NCME Kicks Off Ford PAS Ohio Program With Workshop

The National Center for Manufacturing Education (NCME) hosted a two-week professional development workshop in August for twelve Ohio teachers who will be the first in the state to implement the Ford Partnership for Advanced Studies (Ford PAS) curriculum at seven Ohio schools:

- ◆ Apollo Career Center, Lima
- ◆ Butler Tech, Fairfield Township
- ◆ Delaware Area Career Center, Delaware
- ◆ Lancaster City Schools, Lancaster
- ◆ Madison Comprehensive High School, Mansfield
- ◆ Plain Local Schools, Canton
- ◆ Upper Valley JVS, Piqua

Ford PAS is an educational program commissioned by the Ford Motor Company Fund (the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company) and designed by the Education Development Center, Inc. as part of Ford's efforts to

engage and excite students in the STEM fields: science, technology, engineering, and math. Ford PAS is an academically rigorous curriculum that provides



high-quality interdisciplinary learning experiences. Students are challenged to improve their problem-solving, critical thinking, and communications skills through classroom activities that model real-world situations, and through partnerships with local businesses and institutions of higher education.

As the Ford PAS Ohio Resource Center, the NCME will provide annual training in Ford PAS implementation, as well as support for Ford PAS Ohio teachers throughout the school year. The NCME hosts a website and listserv for Ford PAS Ohio teachers and will be

visiting each school to gather success stories as the program moves forward.

Funding for Ford PAS Ohio comes from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Career-Tech and Adult Education division through a \$250,000 grant from the Ford Motor Company Fund. While the Ford PAS curriculum is currently being used in 95 sites across the country, Ohio is the first Ford PAS state affiliate in the nation.

"This partnership with Ford is a keystone for Ohio," says Susan Tave Zelman, Ohio's state superintendent of public instruction. "Partnerships between business and education are a necessity to ensure that students are ready to compete in the 21st century global economy."

More information can be found at [www.fordpas.org](http://www.fordpas.org) and [www.fordpasohio.org](http://www.fordpasohio.org).

## NCME Announces 2006 Advancing Innovations Conference

The 2006 *Advancing Innovations in Engineering Technology Education: Ideas for a New Age* conference will be held November 1-3 at Hillsborough Community College in Tampa, FL.

The goal of the conference, which is co-sponsored by the NCME and its sister centers, NJCATE and MATEC, is to share best practices and exchange ideas

to support and enhance manufacturing and engineering technician education in the 21st century.

Program topics include: 1) The Next Frontier: Programs in Manufacturing and Emerging Technologies; 2) Innovative Technical Programs: Methodology and Pedagogy; and 3) Strategies in Recruitment and Retention.

Submissions of proposals for presentations will be accepted until September 22, 2006, with acceptance notification coming no later than October 10, 2006.

For more information about the 2006 *Advancing Innovations* conference, please visit [www.njcate.org/advancinginnovations](http://www.njcate.org/advancinginnovations)

# RESOURCE

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## What's New?

### Emerging Engineering Technologies— Technical Competency Profile (TCP)

This resource consists of a foundation core encompassing the national Project Lead The Way curriculum and state-of-the-art engineering pathways. The TCP core and pathways are grounded in academic subject areas and built in concert with emerging engineering career fields. Search this resource at [www.merconline.net](http://www.merconline.net) for more information.

## NCME Hosts 2006 Project Lead The Way Ohio Summer Institute

Pre-engineering program Project Lead The Way (PLTW), whose Ohio affiliate is housed here at the NCME, has made much progress in 2006. In addition to adding some 35 new programs this year—making a total of over 70—some enterprising Ohio PLTW students have won awards and scholarships. Others have served successful internships that are leading to bigger things.

First, a team of PLTW design students at Western Hills Design Academy in Cincinnati came up with an award in the Best Robotics Competition sponsored by the Ohio College of Applied Science at the University of Cincinnati. Then, Keith Liddy, a PLTW student at Medina County Career Center, won a national design contest sponsored by Dimension 3D Printing Group. Another PLTW student, Rick Barr of Kettering Fairmont High School, came in third in the contest. Both

received scholarships through the contest, which saw 500 entries from as far away as Germany and Hungary. Also this year, Akron Firestone



**Computer Integrated Manufacturing student George Doddy Tacho, a PLTW teacher from Woodward High School in Cincinnati, watches a demonstration by PLTW affiliate professor Jeff Donbar and PLTW master teacher Chris Hurd.**

PLTW students Ryan Brosnahan and Justin Perry served a summer internship researching biodiesel fuel for a professor at University of Akron. They were so successful in their research that the results are to be published in a scientific journal. In addition, the professor for whom they worked last summer has requested that they come back this summer, and has also requested two additional interns from Firestone.

Monica Pfarr, director of the NCME and affiliate director for the state of Ohio's PLTW program, is very proud of the progress PLTW has made in the state. "Ohio has been a ground-breaker in many ways with PLTW, and we continue to set an example for other states just starting with the program," she said. "Our students have shown beyond a doubt that Project Lead the Way's curriculum and teaching methods really work."