

NCATC Newsletter • Volume 18, no. 1 • 1st Quarter, 2017



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Lt. Governor Tours Bluegrass Community and Technical College's Advanced Manufacturing Center

Following a successful grand opening in January, the new Bluegrass Community and Technical College's Advanced Manufacturing Center (BCTC-AMC) in Georgetown played host to Kentucky's Lt. Governor Jenean Hampton on February 16. The AMC provides a work-and-learn environment that mirrors what a real manufacturing floor would be like for students who are studying to work in the manufacturing industry.

As part of her tour, Hampton met with current students of the BCTC Advanced Manufacturing Technician (AMT) program as they described their coursework and demonstrated complex machinery. Hampton was able to try her hand at using a simulated welding machine and watched as AMT students used robots to perform different tasks.

This work/study program allows AMT students to work three days a week in a manufacturing environment with their industry sponsor and spend two days a week in a classroom environment, combining components of apprenticeship with hands-on paid work experience.

The AMT program was created from the ground up with help from Toyota, as they need qualified workers to replace an aging workforce ready for retirement. As a result, Toyota and 16 other manufacturers in the region are benefitting from a skilled labor force with the AMT program. Currently, there are 68 AMT students enrolled in the Georgetown program. ♦

