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Manufacturer Holds Signing Day for New Recruits

Students to receive part-time jobs, full scholarships

We've all seen what happens when a well-conditioned athlete goes down on the field. The game stops. An entire stadium holds its breath. And the game suddenly depends on the quick reaction of a handful of personnel with specialized skills to diagnose, treat, and get that athlete back on the field.

The same can be said when a billion-dollar manufacturing operation suddenly goes down, and the advanced technical skills of a few team members are the only thing that can bring the whole automated process back to life. Michelin North America and Midlands Technical College in Lexington, SC, have created a partnership that treats students like athletes.

"The Michelin Tech Scholars program is one of Michelin's innovative approaches to workforce development. It is the perfect partnership between industry, K-12 education, and the Technical College System," says Michael Williams, Facility Personnel Manager for the Lexington passenger tire manufacturing plant. "Like college athletic 'signing days,' we're here to celebrate with this 'career signing day.'"

Modern manufacturing plants, like those at Michelin, are highly automated operations where production line downtime can cost thousands per hour in lost productivity. Mechatronics technicians keep the production lines functioning at the highest capacity.



Eight students from area high schools in Lexington County were chosen as Michelin Technical Scholars. The students received baseball caps signifying they were joining the Michelin team and signed contracts. In fall 2017, they will enroll in Midlands Technical College's Electronic Engineering Technology and Associate in General Technology (Mechatronics) degree programs.

"Michelin relies on the great employees that come from Midlands Technical College," said Williams. "If we as a company expect highly competent employees, it's important that we support programs that provide advanced technical training."

The students, through Michelin's Technical Scholars program, will receive full scholarships covering their tuition, fees, and books. The students will also work part-time at Michelin, earning on-the-job training and experience in their chosen field. Each of the students selected for the program has exhibited the potential for a career as a technician with Michelin.

"These students are signing with Midlands Technical College as well as Michelin," said MTC President Ronald L. Rhames. "We are very proud to welcome these outstanding individuals to the MTC family. MTC and Michelin North America have a proven history of partnerships. MTC provides technically minded students with the best education possible. Michelin provides the scholarships that help those students succeed. I hope this signing day is the first of many more we will celebrate for years to come." ♦