

## **Sturrus Technology Center a Boost for Talent Development**

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In a major boost for manufacturing talent development in the Tri-Cities regional area Muskegon Community College recently opened the Carolyn I. and Peter Sturrus Technology Center in downtown Muskegon at the site of the former Muskegon Chronicle facilities. Now combined with the former Masonic Temple, the Sturrus Technology Center (STC) complex boasts over 80,000 square feet of manufacturing, entrepreneurial and experiential learning training and education.

Muskegon Community College's Applied Technology department is the largest program in the STC with 6 major laboratory components including Machining, Welding, Electronics/Automation, Computer Aided Design, Materials Testing, and Foundry, all outfitted with over \$3.7 million in manufacturing training equipment provided by the State of Michigan. Over 60 credit classes are being offered in Winter 2018 drawing in approximately 500 students, with that number projected to grow. Numerous Tri-City manufacturing companies utilize MCC programs for apprentice and custom training, and the college is eager to continue these workforce development partnerships to allow local companies to meet talent needs and thrive.

The Lakeshore Fab Lab, located in the Rooks/Sarnicola Entrepreneur Institute will open in January and will be divided into a 4,000 square foot maker space, and a 1,200 square foot Kraft Rapid Prototype Center, containing CAD station and high end 3D printing capabilities. Inventors and innovators will be able to, on a membership basis, turn their ideas into prototypes and small batch tests of concept products and receive entrepreneurial support.

The STC has been generously supported by the Tri-Cities area through the lead naming donation of Carolyn I. and Peter Sturrus, a founder of Shape Corp, as well as a grant from the Grand Haven Community Foundation which supported the development of the Lakeshore Fab Lab.

A public grand opening for the STC will be held January 11, 2018 at 4:30pm to which the public is invited to attend.