

# For The Record...

## STCC student lands MIT lab internship

Two Springfield Technical Community College students this summer are working as interns at MIT Lincoln Laboratory, a U.S. Department of Defense research and development center in Lexington.

MIT Lincoln Laboratory selected Douglas Bednarczyk, of West Springfield, pictured at right, and Shane Richardson, of Hebron, Connecticut, students from the Optics and Photonics Technology program at STCC. They will intern at the Lexington facility through August.

Mr. Richardson earned his associate degree from STCC in May, but will return this fall to take additional classes.

Mr. Bednarczyk finished his first year in the two-year Optics and Photonics Technology program and hopes to earn his associate degree in spring 2020.

Students in the program learn about

the practical applications of light, optics and electronics. High-tech applications include lasers, fiber optics, holography, laser materials processing, optical systems and more.

Nicholas Massa, department chair for Optics and Photonics Technology, helped Mr. Richardson and Mr. Bednarczyk land the internships, noting they are serious and hard-working students.

Before he started the internship in May, Mr. Bednarczyk, 19, said he was excited about the opportunity. "Thrilled and nervous," he said. "I'm definitely not from the city, but I can't wait for the experience."

Mr. Bednarczyk is a third-generation STCC student. His grandfather studied electrical engineering technology. His father graduated from a biomedical technology program.

Mr. Bednarczyk looked into the Optics and Photonics Technology after reading an article about STCC's program. "I enjoy the program.

It's really engaging and hands-on. I'm not the type of kid that was meant to sit behind a computer all day. To use the laser etching and marking systems we have, I think that's a blast."

Mr. Massa said there are not enough trained candidates to meet the demand for jobs in the optics and photonics industry.

If interested in applying to STCC's

Optics and Photonics Technology program, visit [stcc.edu/laser](http://stcc.edu/laser) or call admissions at (413) 755-3333.

