

Robotics Students Learn From Intern Experience at Intel Corporation;
STCC Students
Selected from New England-Wide Competition

Jennifer Welsh of Chicopee and Frederick Kotowski of Gilbertville were the only two students selected from the New England states this summer for an internship at the Hudson, Mass. plant of Intel Corporation, the world leader in silicon innovation. The two students are enrolled in the Electrical Engineering Technology department at Springfield Technical Community College

Selected on the basis of their application, recommendations and essay, the STCC interns worked in Intel's 12-hour overnight shifts, 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. This schedule went three days one week and four days the next, giving the students half the week off. Their work time at Intel included classes at Intel College, which Kotowski described as being for employees to learn about the industry – its technical and safety aspects, including ergonomics. The pay for their summer experience was \$16-\$17 an hour

Welsh, who graduated from Chicopee Comprehensive High School, took electrical studies for all four years there, and said she'd heard "lots of good things" about STCC. Graduating this year from STCC, she may continue toward a bachelor's degree at Fitchburg State College.

She says, "Being at Intel was a very rewarding experience, because of the company's great pay, memorable people, and priceless knowledge. My time there reminded me to do the best I can while at STCC, so I can end up working at Intel or some place just as astounding."

Kotowski had also focused on electrical studies, at Pathfinder Vocational Technical High School. He came to STCC "because it was the best school I'd heard about, ever." He said, "My time at Intel was very rewarding. I was given the chance to meet many new people and make good money. The best thing I took with me was the knowledge and the experience of working in a new environment. I am grateful I'll have Intel to put on my resume for future jobs."

Kotowski learned to work on gasonics tools at Intel, used in the etching process in semiconductor manufacturing. Both students learned about lean manufacturing, which they defined as methods to make processes simpler, faster, and more efficient. Kotowski noted that Intel features employee-oriented programs, so that everyone has a say in the structural design of work areas.

Intel's Hudson plant manufactures semiconductors through a complex process of more than 500 steps, requiring an average of 23 days. Kotowski was involved in the

etching process for the semiconductor wafers, working in a “clean room” environment.

The two-year Electrical Engineering Technology program at STCC prepares students to work in the development, installation, and maintenance of robotic and industrial automated systems, using hydraulics, electrical, pneumatic, and microcomputer elements. A separate one-year certificate of completion program is offered in Electrical/Robotics Technology.