



Photo courtesy of RCC

Computer-integrated machining instructor Todd Lamar talks to students about the waterjet cutter, which uses a high-pressure stream of water to cut through virtually any material.

Students get a look at different job opportunities

BY COURIER-TRIBUNE STAFF
ASHEBORO — Randolph Community College played host recently to 225 local high school students to give them a peek at what the work environment at some local manufacturers is like.

Two students who attended the event, Randleman High School sophomore Aliya Easter and Trinity High School junior Yariell Figueroa, said they both are exploring their options, and both happen to be looking into becoming airplane mechanics. Easter said she learned about new opportunities during RCC's Manufacturing Day, which has the goal of educating students on

careers, pay and opportunities in local industries and opportunities with career-technical education classes at the college.

"I think it would be a good start," Easter said. "I've always been interested in airplanes. I've wanted to go into the Air Force since fourth grade."

Being blind in one eye means Easter cannot fly an airplane, but she certainly can fix them.

"I've learned about new opportunities today," she said. "I'll definitely be able to come and take classes here."

Figueroa, whose uncle was a pilot, also was bitten by the airplane bug as a youngster.



Photo courtesy of RCC

Instructor Kyle Hollingsworth demonstrates welding.

"I've always been interested in mechanical stuff, especially airplanes," he said. "I thought it would

be a good idea to see what else I can do for my career development.

JOB

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Now's the time for me to get my classes done. If I don't become an airplane mechanic, I'll become a technician for fiber-optic or coax cable and work for my dad's company."

Students from Ashboro, Eastern Randolph, Providence Grove, Randleman, Southwestern Randolph, Trinity and Wheatmore high schools, Uwharrie Charter Academy and Uwharrie Ridge 6-12 participated in the event, which included a mock assembly line and hands-on activities and demonstrations in the Gene Haas Computer-Integrated Machining Institute of electrical systems, mechatronics, automation engineering and welding areas. The students also

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— *Stacey Miller*
RCC Director of Apprenticeships and Pathways

learned about the Apprenticeship Randolph and College and Career Promise programs.

The students also toured several local companies, including Atalys, Elastic Therapy Inc., Mohawk Industries Inc., Post Consumer Brands, PEMMCO Manufacturing,

Technimark and Timken.

It is important for students to know what's available to them locally, RCC Director of Apprenticeships and Pathways Stacey Miller said.

"RCC instructors work with local company leaders to get feedback on today's workforce

needs," Miller said. "We want to provide career pathways for mechanically minded students who enjoy working with their hands, problem-solving and critical thinking — all important attributes for success in our advanced manufacturing areas."