

Introduction to Fluid Power

Vernon College

Professor Mark Holcomb

Due to the scheduling of classes during the 2009/2010 school year, EMLT 1305 Basic Fluid Power was not offered to students in the Industrial Automation Systems. But the equipment purchased with the grant was still at work promoting the program and automation career field. During Tech Prep activity on November 7, 2009, over 270 High School Juniors visited the Skills Training Center at Vernon College. Students had the opportunity to see several technology careers to included Automation. Both VC Automation program students and staff were on hand to present to HS student different equipment used in modern day automation in manufacturing. The Festo Meclab was used to demonstrate the integration of computers in the workplace. Students created electropneumatic circuits and operated a simulated control system in the computer software program to operate pneumatic components on the trainer.

Students at the Carrigan Career center in the Wichita Falls Independent School District are also benefits of the grant equipment. Vernon College gives 3 semester hours of credit to graduating seniors for ELMT 1305 Basic Fluid Power for those entering the Automation program. A student earning these credits shows competencies in electropneumatic circuit assemble, design and knowledge of component operations. The Meclab is offered to the high school instructor to assure these standards are being met.

Tech Prep is a way to start a college technical major in high school. In a Tech Prep program, you begin your course of study in high school and continue in a community or technical college. The result is a certificate or associate degree in a career field.

Tech Prep programs combine the academic courses needed for success in college AND technical courses that begin to prepare you for a career.

Students in Tech Prep programs can earn college credit through: Content-enhanced articulated courses (statewide articulation and/or local articulation); Dual credit (concurrent enrollment); and/or College Board Advanced Placement (AP)

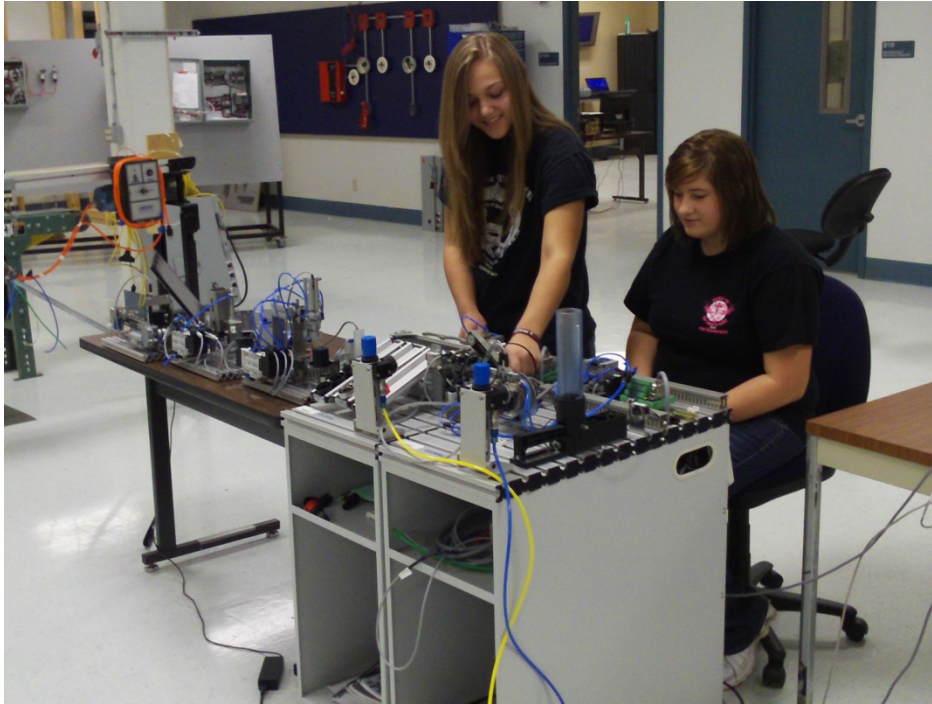
Our final activity for recruitment was the Tech Prep Junior High safari held November 18th. Over 1300 students attended this event. Students used the Festo Meclab equipment to create circuits that control the equipment.



Students from Holiday ISD use Festo Meclab at Tech Prep Career Day.



Chris Venegas, National SkillsUSA gold medalist and former student Teach JuniorHigh students electropneumatic control with Meclab.



Just not a man's world, 2 female students from Burkburnett ISD Operate advanced Mechatronic trainers.