Clackamas Community College manufacturing students bring skills to Rochester Institute of Technology car

Students in Chris Rizzo's advanced manufacturing classes are gaining real-world experience, building parts for a formula one-style race car that takes part in national competition against over 75 different national and international universities.

The partnership came about when Clackamas Community College manufacturing instructor Rizzo visited his alma mater, the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in Rochester, New York, last summer. Twenty years ago, as a student studying industrial design, Rizzo had taken part in the annual race car design competition sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers.

"When I stopped by the school, they were organizing the crew for this year, test driving the previous year's car," he said. "I talked to them about opportunities for collaboration with manufacturing students at Clackamas."

A couple of months later he heard from the team manager at RIT. The university, noted for its engineering programs, wanted to know if CCC students could produce some high-end suspension components, and Rizzo jumped on the opportunity. The components are manufactured from high-end, exotic metal alloys that are even unusual for people in industry to work with, let alone students.

"These 'A-arms' are created through an extremely complicated manufacturing process. This project provided an opportunity for students to learn and practice skills used at the leading edge of manufacturing," Rizzo said.

The manufacturing students created a total of 16 of the suspension components, utilizing industry-leading skills such as multi-axis machining and tooling. The parts were shipped to Rochester to install on the race car.

The completed formula one race car will compete in at least two competitions where they'll compete with cars from universities around the world. The RIT formula racer will carry a prominent Clackamas Community...
College logo, right next to those of other major sponsors, including Toyota, Siemens, SKF. SpaceX and Yamaha.

-- Janet Paulson, public information officer, Clackamas Community College

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