

December 2021

Career Tech Writers Studio

## **Career Tech Classes Prepare the Path to Collaboration**

By Eli Pczolkowski

In October, the Precision Machining class and Engineering Academy students met to take turns discussing the content of their classes, as well as the jobs, opportunities, and skills associated with them. After a pandemic-fueled pause on collaborations, the two are reconnecting, opening the door for potential collaborative projects and experience in the coming months.

The Precision Machining class, taught by instructor Pete Povolo, was first. He went over the basics of what precision machining means and what skills students learn in the class. Precision machining, in a nutshell, is the process of drawing out and creating specialized parts for machines. Students use a wide array of tools, blueprints, and high-powered machinery to sculpt metal into a working, finely tuned component. Mr. Povolo emphasized the importance of planning out a manufacturing process and communicating that information to a group. Fellow instructor, Don Smith, had this to say: “We’re just trying to share with the engineering sector what things look like and how they are in the real world,” adding that the joint sessions are important because the first-year engineering students need the hands-on experience to understand how to create feasible and practical designs.

The students then headed to the Engineering Academy classroom, where instructor Hollianne McHugh, aided by some of her students, went over the basics of what happens in her class. In their first year, students mainly learn the fundamentals of physics, engineering, flexible teamwork, and other related subjects that prepare them to apply their knowledge at nationwide robotics competitions in their second year.

The joint session between the two classes could pave the way for collaboration on projects between them in the future. For example, the machining students could help the engineering students in their robotics projects by creating parts or assisting in designing realistic blueprints. “It’s important to work with other [disciplines] in CTC because you have to learn about professional communication and working with other people with different skillsets or mindsets,” said West Senior High senior Kass Caugh from the Engineering Academy class.

Since the initial meeting with Precision Machining, the Engineering Academy has also met with the Welding program in a similar way. After a strange year of disconnection between classes, the Career Tech community seems to finally be returning to its full potential.



*Caption: “Precision Machining instructor Pete Povolo (middle) giving a presentation on the process of creating machine components.”*