



PRESS RELEASE

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Tech Center to feature tours, demos, college, and summer fun info

On **Wednesday, February 27, 2008, from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.** local parents and their teens will find way more than an open door at the *Muskegon Area Career Tech Center (MACTC) Winter Open House*. Parents, teens, and the general public are invited to explore the environmentally friendly, 58,000-square-foot training facility, see equipment demonstrations by students, and review samples of student work. The open house will feature college representatives, career information, door prizes, a silent auction, and refreshments prepared by students. Off-campus career and technical programs including cosmetology, graphic arts, commercial arts and construction trades will also be highlighted. Interested parents of high school students can learn more about completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), while middle school parents can sign their children up for one or more of the 14 MACTC Summer Fun courses. Last summer the two week-long, half-day career and technical sessions drew 127 middle school students.

The MACTC facility, opened in January 2005, is located on the corner of Harvey and Stebbins next to the wind turbine visible from US-31. Tours and demos will include some of the Center's high-tech equipment including welders, CNC equipment, auto alignment rack and digital engine analyzers, auto-spray booths, commercial kitchen facilities, and cutting edge industrial design equipment. The public will also learn more about the "green" features of the MACTC including the geothermal heating and cooling system that uses the natural heat of the earth, rather than relying on fossil fuels. A video kiosk located inside the facility can connect to an energy management system that monitors the power generated by photovoltaic panels on the greenhouse roof and a wind turbine atop a 120-foot tower.

Over 750 high school juniors and seniors attend one of 20 courses offered by the MACTC. Many students are earning industry-recognized certifications and college credits, while others qualify for highly-paid apprenticeships. Most students enroll in college or other career-related training after graduation. Students are also competing and succeeding in career-related competitions throughout the region and state. They have even built and "raced" an electric car that will be on display during the open house.

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