Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Options Insider by AmeriCOM!

This monthly newsletter shares the latest news and information on our work with academic and industry partners to strengthen our nation’s optics manufacturing workforce. Community colleges and manufacturing companies are central to the effort of identifying, recruiting, and training the next generation of precision optics technicians. These issues will show key insights into how we are working with our partners to lead this charge. Read about how your academic institution or company can be a part of this national imperative, and enjoy the inaugural edition of the Options Insider by AmeriCOM.

Across the Nation, Students Studying to be Optics Technicians Are in High Demand

The 2022 SPIE Optics + Photonics in San Diego included more than 2,000 presentations and the latest industry news with 46 conference seminars. For a handful of students in an optics training program, a trip to SPIE-O-PH offered much more: a chance to showcase their program — and themselves — to optics companies from around the country. Plus, they’re still talking about the ways they engaged along the way.

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Community Colleges Attract Talent for High-Demand Industry

Optics are everywhere. From satellites, to medical devices, to supercomputer scanners, optics impact our everyday life in countless ways. Despite the ubiquity, the optics manufacturing industry still struggles to meet the demand for precision optics technicians. Education writer Paul Fish examines how community colleges are addressing the labor shortage and attracting new students to the field.

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Unconventional Career Path Leads Colorado Nursing Student to Optics

Annabelle Reed worked in a nursing home while pursuing a degree with a five-year curriculum. But she knew the nursing field wasn’t the right fit for her. She tried working as a personal trainer, travel agent, jewelry consultant, and florist, but still wanted something more. Enter Front Range Community College with a certificate program that utilized all of those skills in an exciting, fulfilling career.

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Apprenticeships Create “Win-Win” for Optics Manufacturers and Technicians

Employees want skilled workers to drive business. Workers want skills to drive career advancement. Countless industries, from home construction to auto repair, create apprenticeships to meet both demands. Could apprenticeships be a recruitment and retention strategy for your optics manufacturing company? We have some tips to help you get started.

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Isn’t it Ironic? Optics are practically everywhere you look.

Yet the industry’s biggest barrier is too low visibility as a career path. Find out how AmeriCOM is changing that stereotype — and what The Future of Optics can do to help.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Arizona Photonics Days
Jan 25 - 27, 2022

SPIE Photonics West
Jan 28 – Feb 3, 2023

Subscribe to the Options Insider for more on the events and news from SPIE.

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