

In this issue:

- Meet the New AmeriCOM Team Members
- AmeriCOM Highlights Progress at APOMA Tech Workshop
- Defense Precision Optics Consortium (DPOC) Awards New Projects
- DPOC Adding New Members. Join Now!
- Thousands of Students Get Hands-on Introduction to STEM and Manufacturing
- Optics Capture Incredible Images of Powerful Hurricanes

New AmeriCOM Team Members Take on Critical Roles

AmeriCOM's three new team members will support its mission of building and sustaining the nation's precision optics manufacturing base.



Magda Hernandez Otero
Community Liaison



Jeff Iorio
Optics Technician



Justin Ghyzel
Optics Technician

Magda Hernandez Otero has joined the team as Community Liaison for Optics Ecosystems to support our partner colleges, engage with students and families, and promote the importance of careers in optics manufacturing. Magda will also help boost enrollment in college optics programs by reaching out to people who inquire about our training programs through our marketing outreach campaign, **The Future Is Optics**. "I want to support students throughout their journey from initial interest [in optics] to enrollment into an optics degree or certificate program across our ecosystems," Magda said. "There's nothing more rewarding than helping someone find their path." Prior to this new role, Magda worked at Valencia College in Orlando, FL, where she managed multi-program recruitment for optics, robotics, semiconductor manufacturing, and industrial automation.

Jeff Iorio joined the team as an Optical Technician and will operate all facets of COM-Lab, AmeriCOM's new lab facility. Jeff will support our research mission to aid development of advanced precision optics manufacturing technologies and testing equipment. Jeff has almost a decade of experience in optics manufacturing through his time at Monroe Community College (MCC) and Optimax. While at MCC, Jeff joined the first NYS Certified Precision Optics Manufacturing Apprenticeship program. The program included three years of on-the-job training rotations across all departments at Optimax – equipping employees to become effective, proficient precision optics manufacturing technicians. During his time in the apprenticeship program, Jeff completed his associate degrees in Optical Systems Technology and Precision Machining.

Justin Ghyzel also joined the AmeriCOM team as a COM-Lab Optical Technician. Justin earned his associate degree from MCC through the Precision Machining program. While attending MCC he was hired by Optimax to generate and polish prototype asphere lenses. Justin has more than 14 years of optical manufacturing experience, including several years starting and leading the company's diamond-turning process. "I enjoy learning new things and getting my hands into any project put in front of me," Justin said. "I'm excited to work in COM-Lab with industry leaders to drive innovations that will strengthen American optics manufacturing."

APOMA Tech Workshop Convenes Optics Stakeholders



Optics experts and manufacturers from around the country gathered in New Orleans for APOMA's Tech Workshop to share insights and discuss the latest in optics innovations. AmeriCOM proudly sponsored the event, and also shared two presentations highlighting progress of its research and workforce development efforts.

[Read More About the APOMA Tech Workshop](#)



Defense Precision Optics Consortium (DPOC) Awards New Projects

AmeriCOM's Defense Precision Optics Consortium (DPOC) and workforce training initiatives are aimed at enhancing the capabilities of the defense industrial base. To that end, AmeriCOM has recently awarded the following projects to develop curriculum for optical standards courses and develop a strategy for integrated optics assembly manufacturing.

[Read More About the Projects Awarded](#)

Join the Defense Precision Optics Consortium (DPOC)

To enroll in DPOC, fill out the [application form](#) and a member of the AmeriCOM DPOC team will contact you about next steps.

DPOC Membership includes:

- Rental of the AmeriCOM research lab facility, COM-Lab, on a fee-for-time basis including access to equipment, tools, and its trained technical staff for process development and equipment operation
- Ability to submit proposals through AmeriCOM-funded grant opportunities for R&D projects
- Participation in secure online user's forums led by the AmeriCOM Chief Scientist and Director of Engineering
- Access to AmeriCOM's marketing brand and social media platforms, shared public relations activities, and participation in the national outreach campaign, **The Future is Optics**

Community Events Capture Student Interest in Manufacturing and STEM



Ecosystem partner, Keene State College (KSC) meets with students at the Wicked STEM event in Milford, NH.



AmeriCOM's Donna Smith and Magda Hernandez Otero share the world of optics at ROC With Your Hands, in Rochester, NY.

Students interested in manufacturing and STEM careers got a hands-on opportunity to explore those paths at two separate community events in regions with AmeriCOM optics ecosystems. First, more than 1,200 high school and college students from Northern New England explored disciplines in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) during the 3rd Annual **Wicked STEM** event in Milford, NH. AmeriCOM partner **Keene State College (KSC)** was an event sponsor, engaging students and families with hands-on activities and demonstrations. Wicked STEM is designed to cultivate and sustain the interest of students in STEM careers through face-to-face experiences with local experts.

Meanwhile, the Rochester Technology and Manufacturing Association (RTMA) hosted an event introducing students to careers in skilled trades and advanced manufacturing. The 4th Annual **ROC With Your Hands** event drew more than a thousand middle and high school students. AmeriCOM Science Educator Liaison, Donna Smith, and Community Liaison for Optics Ecosystems, Magda Hernandez Otero, captured students' attention by demonstrating optics principles through several hands-on activities including a hologram viewer and a 3-D mirror magic trick using polarizing lenses. Students also lined up for what turned out to be a big hit of the event, temporary tattoos featuring AmeriCOM's **Light Up Your Future With Optics** campaign. "The first step is getting them curious about how much optics impact our lives," Smith said. "Once we have their interest, we show them how precision optics can be a viable and fulfilling career."



Photo credit: <https://satlib.cira.colostate.edu/event/hurricane-milton/>

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) satellites played a significant role in predicting and tracking the path of the deadly and destructive Hurricane Milton. The Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES) are a series of satellites deploying state-of-the-art environmental monitoring systems using advanced optical systems. Some of the optical systems include Advanced Baseline Imager (ABI), Geostationary Lightning Mapper (GLM), and Extreme Ultraviolet and X-ray Irradiance Sensors (EXIS). Check out [NOAA's images of Hurricane Milton](#) from the GOES-16 and GOES-19 satellites.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Defense Manufacturing Conference (DMC) 2024
Austin, TX
Dec. 2-5, 2024

Photonics Spectra Polymer Optics Summit 2024
Virtual Event
Dec. 4, 2024

Arizona Photonics Days
Tucson, AZ
Jan. 22-24, 2025

SPIE Photonics West
San Francisco, CA
Jan. 25-30, 2025

[Subscribe to the Optics Insider for the latest in optics news each month.](#)

Vol. 2, Issue 7 - November, 2024

We are pleased to share this edition of our newsletter with you. If you enjoy this content, please share with anyone you think may also appreciate it!



[Privacy Policy](#)

American Center for Optics Manufacturing

© Copyright 2024, American Center for Optics Manufacturing

AmeriCOM - American Center for Optics Manufacturing, PO Box 23473, Rochester, NY 14692-3473

[Unsubscribe](#) [Manage preferences](#)