

In this issue:

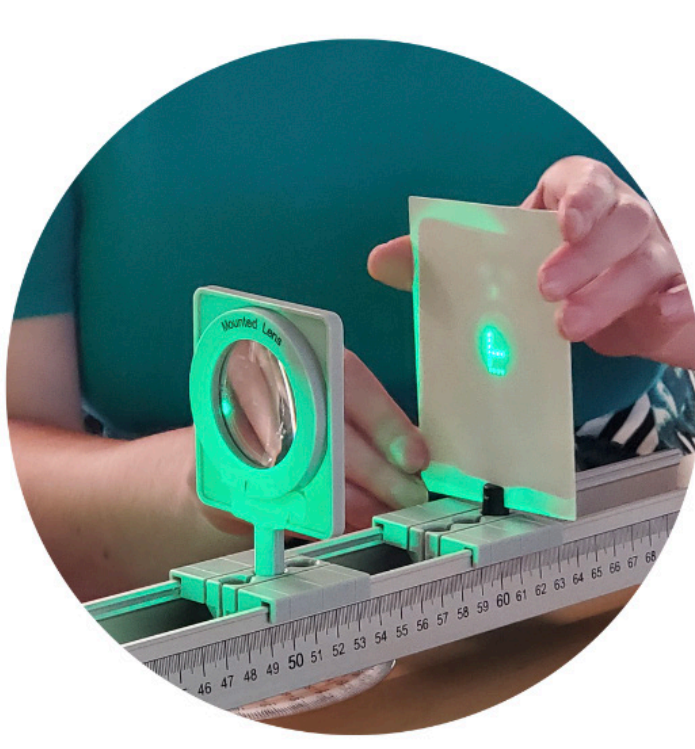
- *High School Science Teachers Get Jazzed About Optics*
- *Recent Graduates Take Advantage of Multiple Career Paths*
- *What Makes a City an Innovation Hub?*



Teachers' Workshop for Optics Careers

High school students may be on summer vacation but many science teachers were back in the classroom this month learning how to teach optics. Sussex County Community College (SCCC) hosted the Careers in Optics Technology Professional Development Workshop in collaboration with AmeriCOM. This first-of-its-kind workshop was one more AmeriCOM initiative to strengthen the nation's optics manufacturing base.

Science teachers from New Jersey participated in the program which started with a basic introduction on the prevalence of optics and the demand for skilled optics technicians. "Many teachers aren't aware that the optics manufacturing industry offers viable, fulfilling careers for their students," said Donna Smith, Education Liaison, AmeriCOM. "Once teachers learned about the importance of the optics industry, they immediately recognized optics could be a great path for their students who may not consider a traditional four-year college."



Teachers were led through three labs such as identifying the magnification of lenses.

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Graduates Land at Top-Notch Companies



Whether they are starting a full-time job at a local optics manufacturing company, gaining experience at an internship with Lockheed Martin, or pursuing additional education, this past spring's cohort of college optics graduates are moving on to impressive opportunities. Here's a quick look at the 2022-2023 academic year graduation numbers from community college optics programs, and a snapshot of where some of those students are headed next:

Monroe Community College (MCC) in Rochester, NY, the nation's largest and longest-standing optics manufacturing training program, recognized 25 students for completing its Optical Systems Technology Certificate Program. Of those students, 19 are continuing their education to earn MCC's Optical Systems Technology Associate Degree. Many of those students are also working part-time at local manufacturers while pursuing their degrees. Other students have lined up optics jobs or internship opportunities, including one student accepted into the NASA Summer Internship program and another accepted into the Corning Technician Pipeline Program.

Check out some of the companies hiring new graduates or interns from the Optics Technology programs at MCC, FRCC, and SCCC.

Advanced Glass Industries

Areté Associates

Corning

Esco Optics

Lockheed Martin

Lumetrics

Meadowlark Optics

MIT Lincoln Laboratory

NASA

Optimax Systems

Qualitrol

Subcom

Sydor Optics

Thorlabs

Vertex Optics

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Collaborating to Expand What Is Possible: Optics and Photonics Summer Intensive Course

It's not your typical summer vacation, and these aren't your typical high schoolers. Fourteen students from Boulder Prep High School in Colorado completed an intensive and immersive summer course learning about optics and photonics. The four-day program included several hands-on activities and tours of local manufacturing companies including Quantinum, Excelitas, and Thorlabs.

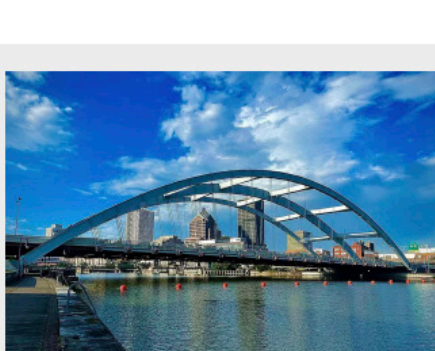
Dr. Amanda Meier leads the Optics Technology Program at Front Range Community College (FRCC) and helped teach the course with AmeriCOM Advisory Group member Sterling Backus from Thorlabs.



Students "painting with light" was one of many hands-on activities.

"This course opened up a whole new world for these students," said Dr. Meier. "They not only learned about optics and optics careers, but they also got to hear from local employers who are eager to hire skilled technicians."

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Two MIT Profs ID'd An Aging NY City As The Next Innovation Hub. Their Data Is Proving Right. [Read More.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPIE Optics + Photonics Conference
 San Diego, CA
 Aug. 20 - 24, 2023

Photonics Industry Summit
 Washington, DC
 Sept. 27, 2023

Optifab 2023
 Rochester, NY
 Oct. 16-19, 2023

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