FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: May 20, 2015

Keywords: north Georgia, north Georgia technical college, engineering, summer camp, clarkesville

NGTC Manufacturing Summer Camp Expanding Fun

Last year, a group of twelve young men spent an action packed week at North Georgia Technical College designing, building and producing from scratch an invention they could show with pride. This summer, the Nuts, Bolts, and Thingamajigs Camp is back and by popular demand will be offered at all three campuses.

Aimed at introducing young persons in grades six through nine to new technologies and careers, campers will tour local manufacturing facilities to learn what types of careers exist, what skills and training are required, and how those businesses developed. They will have the opportunity to hear directly from local manufacturing company owners how they started their businesses, applying basic entrepreneurship principles to understand how a single product idea becomes a business option.

Beginning with the Clarkesville Campus, two sessions of the camps will be offered June 8-11, one for boys and one for girls. “We had great success last year with the guys,” said Vice President for Economic Development Dr. Mark Ivester. “The camp fills up quickly, so we wanted to be sure we saved room for girls that might be interested. Keeping a camp just for girls gives us a chance to tailor the classes a little, and it also opens the door for some friendly competition.”

The next week, the camp will be held on the Currahee Campus, June 15-18. This camp is open to both boys and girls, ages twelve to fifteen. The following week, June 22-25, the co-ed camp will be on the Blairsville Campus.
Each morning of camp begins with a safety meeting before students hit the lab. By the end of the week, they will have the satisfaction of creating something they can show off with pride. In the process they will learn how to do Computer-aided Design (CAD) and operate various kinds of manufacturing machinery including computer numeric controlled (CNC) equipment under the close supervision of expert manufacturing trainers. In addition, campers will have hands-on activities with robotics, lasers, machining, and fabrication of metals, plastics, and other materials.

“This is a great opportunity for young people to experience a different kind of career option,” said Ivester. “To watch these kids come up with an idea, work the design up on the computer, and take it all the way to the CNC machine is fantastic. Our future is bright because of the talent and energy of this generation.”

The camp is $125 and runs Monday – Thursday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. This camp is part of a national manufacturing summer camp program designed and sponsored by Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs, through the Foundation of the Fabricators & Manufacturers Association. Learn more about these organizations at www.nutsandboltsfoundation.org. For more information on Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs camp at North Georgia Technical College, call 706-754-7715.

Photo: Campers from 2014 display their creations.

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