



Building Futures ... Together

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NCTC holds Third Annual ROBO Storm Technology Camp

THIEF RIVER FALLS, MINN. (June 29, 2009) – Twenty-four 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students from throughout northwest Minnesota attended the third annual ROBO Storm Camp at Northland Community and Technical College, Wednesday and Thursday, June 24 and 25.

Participants of ROBO Storm Camp had an enjoyable experience learning how to assemble robots, working the various sensors in tandem, and then using computer programming skills to enable the robots to function.

Andrew Dahlen, Automated Systems instructor at NCTC, and a camp director, said the kids did a phenomenal job. “This camp,” he said, “was all about getting young people interested in math and science.” Dahlen believes that in the future, math and science skills will become more important. “The careers and jobs that will be available to these students will build on the skills they used these past two days at the camp.”

In addition to building, programming, and competing with Lego Mindstorm Robots, the students also toured the Arctic Cat factory to see their automated equipment and learn more about their highly specialized careers.

Sponsors of the event included Northland Community and Technology College, Bemidji State University, and eight community and technical colleges teamed together as part of a Center of Excellence in Manufacturing and Applied Engineering, also known as 360°. The goal of 360° is to provide new educational routes for students to pursue while bringing industry and education together to help us stay competitive on a global scale. For more information about 360 degrees, log on to www.360mn.org.

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NCTC is a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system,
and an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Educator and Employer

Northland College would like to thank the local businesses and organizations that contributed to the success of the summer camp: 360°, the Center of Excellence in Manufacturing and Applied Engineering who helped fund the camp; Machinewell, of Grygla, MN, Northwest Beverage of Thief River Falls, and Digi-Key, Inc. for donating items; and Arctic Cat for giving a wonderful tour of the robotics equipment in the plant.

Andrew Dahlen and Joel Ziegler, faculty members of the Automated Systems program did a phenomenal job facilitating the camp and keeping students engaged in the robotics projects. The staff from the Center for Outreach & Innovation (Kirsten Michalke, Trista Lund, Dave Jobe, Brad Eriksen, Melrene Kaiser, and Rick Besser) coordinated the camp, chaperoned evening activities, and involved businesses in the event.

Northland Community and Technical College is a comprehensive college with campuses in East Grand Forks, Minn., and Thief River Falls, Minn. One- and two-year degrees, transfer programs and diploma certification are available in a variety of majors, as well as workforce training and continuing education programs. NCTC is a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. Visit the College at www.northlandcollege.edu. NCTC is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

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