

DACC Intern is Time-o-matic Approved

By Ann Marie Cross, Time-o-matics Product Support Manager

Time-o-matic is a family-owned business based in Danville, IL. They have been manufacturing signs for more than 70 years. They currently build color and monochrome LED message centers as well as red or amber time & temperature signs for North America and beyond. For the last four years Time-o-matics consistently hires 2-3 DACC engineering interns per year. For more information visit www.timeomatic.com.

Matt began as a production assistant technician, as most of our interns do. He was required to follow detailed procedures to test complex, expensive customer electronic signs. He began with the most simple tests, like all interns, and quickly showed a real aptitude to handle the work we do.

This summer, we had several DACC interns with us, including Matt. Matt continued to excel at the tasks asked of him, and showed an impressive knack for diagnosing problems, and resolving them without requiring a lead technician's assistance. Because of his aptitude for diagnostics, we've added an additional testing step into our "computer brain" production prior to installing them in our signs. Matt is the sole person responsible for this testing, and his work here has saved us several hours of technician's time by catching problems prior to installation.

In addition, I asked Ray Digby to consider Matt for repair duties as well. Ray reports, "He is very intelligent and has a real aptitude for engineering. He has learned to solder, replace complex electronic components, and most importantly he has learned the "nuts" and "bolts" of how things work. I think Matt will be very successful in his career as an engineer."

Matt's work is definitely beneficial to the company, and his work frees up our permanent employees for other tasks.

Matt's work saves our lead technician time in doing the various levels of testing, as well as in doing repair work that Ray's regular team simply doesn't have time for. Matt's work is definitely beneficial to the company, and his work frees up our permanent employees for other tasks.

Matt is the mold I've been working toward when bringing in new DACC interns, and I have asked Matt to assist in training these interns as they are hired. I've only been with the company for a short time, so my experience with DACC interns is limited, but we've been very pleased with Matt, and with the other interns that have been here since I came aboard. We had 3 DACC interns this last semester, and we hope to keep as many as possible for a long time frame, and to expand their education within the work we do as well.

Benefits of DACC by an Engineering Student

I chose engineering because I have always enjoyed learning how and why things work, as well as trying to make them better. Also, the demand for engineers is very high, especially in the area of electronics and electricity. I am attending DACC for the first segment of my college education because it is a very smart option. If you contrast a transfer program through DACC with attending all four years at a university, the cost savings are very substantial—approximately \$20,000. Plus, after transferring, your diploma from the university will be identical to one received by a student who attended all four years at the university.

I am attending DACC...because it is a very smart option.

One great thing about DACC is the fact that I have student partners who are in my exact classes that share the same goals. These partners have proven very helpful in many cases. Also, if I ever have a question or confusion on a subject, the professors are readily available for personable, one-on-one interaction. On more than one occasion, I have seen professors ask specific students if they understand the topic. The great thing about this interaction is that the engineering courses at DACC are the fundamental ones on which the rest of your education will be based on, so grasping the concepts in full is vital. This personal attention is something which would never happen in many large universities.

Another benefit to attending DACC is the opportunity to work an internship related to your field of study. I have interned with Time-o-matic, a company which produces LED time/temp units and LED message centers. You have undoubtedly seen these message centers all over the country, and perhaps in other countries if you travel. Those of us who live in Danville are familiar the newer LED signs are at locations like Schlarman, the Village Mall, the David S. Palmer Civic Center, and many other locations. Part of my job is to perform final hookup and assembly of the signs, and to test them before they shipped out. When they have problems, I take care of the necessary modifications or replacements. Also, I test and repair individual components. As a result, I have become proficient with a soldering iron through this facet of my responsibilities.

Attending DACC, saving money, and gaining very valuable experience in real-world applications is a fantastic idea. Most future employers are more interested in proven real-world productivity in their engineers than in theoretical ability presented by a diploma. DACC's support and assistance to obtain internships offers the opportunities to gain those skills as well as the academics.